

Chief Rabbi condemns 'disreputable' movement

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Rabbi has condemned an independent Jewish movement as "disreputable and unforgivable". Dr Jonathan Sacks accused the Masorti, the most conservative of the more liberal movements, of adjusting Jewish law to suit secular fashion.

His statement highlights the deepening rift in the Jewish community over questions of tradition and belief. In a debate that centres on whether God dictated the Torah, the first five

books of the Bible, to Moses on Mount Sinai. Dr Sacks says: "Once a whole community loses its standards, everyone within it suffers."

The Jewish community in Britain, of about 300,000 people, is reportedly losing ten members a day through assimilation, emigration and a low birth rate. Dr Sacks believes that the answer to the community's survival lies in Orthodoxy.

He says that anyone who does not believe in *Torah min Hashamayim* — the doctrine that the Torah, or the law, was dictated by God to Moses —

had "severed links with the faith of his ancestors". His statement, circulated in the Orthodox *Jewish Tribune* and leaked to today's *Jewish Chronicle*, makes particular reference to the growing Masorti movement. Dr Sacks, in his strongest statement since assuming office three years ago, says that the movement poses a threat to the future of British Jewry.

The Masorti, a movement of several thousand, with groups and synagogues mainly in and around London, adhere to *halachah*, oral law, and *mitzvot*, the 613 positive and

negative commandments in the *Torah*. But they question the origins of the *Torah*, agreed by most biblical scholars to have been written in several stages.

Dr Sacks's statement comes amid attempts by the Masorti, headed by Rabbi Louis Jacobs, of the New London Synagogue in north London, to found a new base in Manchester. Dr Jacobs will address an all-day study meeting on Masorti philosophy in Manchester later this month. Leading members of the Orthodox rabbinic in the city have pledged to

fight Masorti attempts to gain a foothold.

Dr Sacks says: "Undeniably, though, Anglo-Jewry faces a danger. The Masorti movement is engaged in a countrywide campaign to start new branches. The specific danger is that it is being conducted with what seems to be a serious attempt to mislead."

He says Masorti claims to be Orthodox are "disreputable and unforgivable". Quoting Jewish sages, he says "the worst kind of dishonesty is intellectual dishonesty".

Governors poised for court action over jail sacking

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON governors are threatening legal action over the validity of the decision to remove John Marriott from his post as governor of Parkhurst jail. The threat of a court challenge is another blow to the Prison Service as its senior managers attempt to restore morale among governors and staff in the wake of the riots and the suicide of Frederick West.

Legal advisers for the Prison Governors' Association are to consider whether judicial review proceedings can be brought over the way in which Mr Marriott was ordered to leave his post.

A statement from the PGA said the advisers would consider if there had been "serious flaws in the interpretation of civil service rules and the

interpretation of natural justice".

Mr Marriott, 48, was relieved of his duties at the prison on Tuesday pending a security and disciplinary inquiry into the escape of two murderers and an arsonist from the top security jail in the Isle of Wight.

More than 48 hours after the announcement by Michael Howard, Mr Marriott had not received any written reasons for his removal. Last night he was described by colleagues as being "shocked, depressed and angry" at his treatment.

Governors throughout the country had expressed "great anger" over the treatment of Mr Marriott and other staff at the Isle of Wight jail, the statement said. The move to

try to test the manner of his removal in the courts indicates that Derek Lewis, director-general of the Prison Service, has failed to calm down the anger and dismay among many of the country's 1,000 governors.

In a letter to the PGA he lavished praise on Mr Marriott, describing him as a man noted for his "dedication, humanity, courage and innovation".

Last night Mr Lewis said he did not believe there had been a breach of civil service rules in the transfer of Mr Marriott from the jail to Prison Service headquarters.

He denied he was at odds with Mr Howard over the issue. "There is absolutely no disagreement between me and the Home Secretary on this," he added. "This was an operational decision that we felt had to be taken in the wake of the very serious escape from Parkhurst and the fact was that there was a great deal of uncertainty created."

He insisted that no decision had been taken over Mr Marriott's future as an operational governor. "There is no decision at all as to what may happen to Mr Marriott after the various investigations have been completed," he said.

The decision to seek legal advice was taken at a meeting of the PGA's 16-strong national executive. The meeting is also understood to have discussed whether to withdraw co-operation with the Prison Service if they fail to receive an adequate response to a series of proposals put to the service and intended to improve morale.

Prisoners must earn the right to watch television through good behaviour, Michael Forsyth, a junior Home Office Minister, said. He told the Commons inmates at only two prisons — Garth, near Preston, and Stocken, Leicestershire — could watch television, including satellite stations, in their own cells.



Peter Preston: longest-serving Fleet Street editor

Preston stands down as Guardian editor

Continued from page 1

embarrassment for the paper. Last month Richard Gott, a senior *Guardian* executive, resigned after the *Speculator* magazine named him as a confidential contact for the KGB for many years.

In November MPs called for Mr Preston's resignation after he admitted using forged Commons writing paper in order to expose details of Jonathan Aitken MP's bill at the Ritz Hotel in Paris as part of the paper's investigations into the undeclared interests of Tory MPs. Libel writs were

issued against *The Guardian* by Neil Hamilton, who resigned as Trade Minister in the wake of the paper's cash-for-questions revelations.

The Scott Trust, which is chaired by the political columnist Hugo Young, will meet on Monday to discuss the selection of the new editors. *The Guardian* is rare among national newspapers in allowing its staff a say in the appointment. Mr Preston was chosen for the editorship in 1975 by a panel of journalists, members of the Scott Trust and management executives.

Doctor suspended after nurse's op

Continued from page 1

out the operation. Nine days afterwards Michael Boyce, the Trust's medical director, visited the patient and told him what had happened. "He seems quite happy with his treatment," Mr Milstead. He wanted to assure patients that this was a "highly unusual event".

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Health Secretary, called on Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, to hold an inquiry and said: "This is extraordinary. She must find out how this happened so that it cannot happen again."

The RCN said the incident was believed to be the first in which a nurse had performed a full operation, including the incision, removal of the appendix, and stitching up of the patient. Howard Cairns, south-west officer for the RCN, said: "Mrs Tomlinson is an experienced theatre sister. But we cannot condone work outside the scope of nursing duties. It's wrong and should not be done. Nurses are there to assist surgeons, not to perform appendix removals or any other operations."

Jan Honey, for the Trust, said the internal inquiry should report. A statement issued later said that "in the present circumstances and because of the difficulties involved in Mr Bhatti carrying out his present duties" it had been agreed he should take "leave of absence".

Trevor Parsons, regional officer with the health service union Unison, said: "We want an independent inquiry. You cannot have the Trust management investigating Trust policies. We don't believe this is a one off; similar things may have happened in the past. We want to know about them."

Meanwhile patients' watchdogs expressed their horror at the allegations. Geoff Paxon of Cornwall Community Health Council said: "If a nurse has done this, it is quite appalling and a breach of every code that exists."

Patients' consent forms for operations vary from Trust to Trust, but none allows for surgery by unqualified staff.

Germans hail Major over war ceremonies

John Major earned high praise yesterday from Germans who hailed his decision to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war with reflective ceremonies rather than military pomp. In a front-page editorial, Dresden's largest newspaper, the *Sächsische Zeitung*, said it was "a wise decision". Other newspapers made similar comments.

Dresden will mark the fiftieth anniversary of its bombardment by the British and US Air Forces on February 13 in a ceremony that is sure to test Anglo-German relations. In 1992 Dresdeners booed and threw eggs at the Queen when she visited the city. Next month the Queen will be represented by the Duke of Kent. The British, said the Dresden newspaper, were now trying hard to set a new tone. "By not staging a parade the British have sent a clear signal that they are ready to be sensitive about the past, a sensitivity that has not always been apparent in the past few years."

Doctors' overwork case

Junior hospital doctors are taking their employers to an industrial tribunal next week claiming they are overworked and underpaid. Eleven medical and surgical juniors, who work at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, are bringing their complaint under the terms of the Wages Act. They will argue that their pay does not take into account the intensity of their work.

Shankill suspect silent

Lord Justice MacDermott yesterday reserved judgment in the trial of Sean Kelly, who is accused of murdering nine people in an IRA bomb attack in Shankill Road, Belfast, in October 1993. Kelly, 20, from the Ardoyne area of north Belfast, refused to give evidence on his own behalf at Belfast Crown Court yesterday after his counsel said on Wednesday that he would not be contesting the prosecution evidence.

Aid workers accused

Two British aid workers being held in Sierra Leone by rebels were accused by Foday Sanneh, of the Revolutionary United Front, of helping government troops in the west African country. Calum Murray and Robert d'Cruz, of Voluntary Service Overseas, disappeared during a rebel raid on November 7. The Foreign Office said they were aid workers and had nothing to do with the Sierra Leone Government.

Meningitis man dies

Malcolm Batty, 43, from Dover, has died and two children are seriously ill after contracting meningococcal meningitis, the same strain that killed two five-year-old classmates in Sussex in the past two weeks. Laura Boorman, 8, a pupil of River Primary School, Dover, is being treated at Guy's Hospital, London, and Joshua Sleath, of Elvington, Kent, is at Beckland Hospital, Dover.

Killer boyfriend jailed

The boyfriend of a pregnant former beauty queen was sentenced to life imprisonment by Maidstone Crown Court yesterday after pleading guilty to murdering her by stabbing her nearly 50 times as their year-old son looked on. Jason Anderson, 25, from Ramsgate, Kent, admitted murdering Alison Thorpe, 27, in November 1993. Her body was found in the passenger seat of her car in a supermarket car park.

Edmonds in court win

Noel Edmonds, right, the television presenter, was granted a High Court order yesterday to protect the name *Crinkley Bottom*. The injunction was granted to Unique Group, a company owned by Edmonds and his wife Helen. It restrains *Crinkley Bottom Ltd*, of Gosforth, Newcastle, and three food and drink firms, from using the name pending a possible trial over alleged copyright breaches.



Police in crash payout

The family of a man killed in a collision with a car driven by a policeman who had been drinking will receive £187,500 compensation from the Metropolitan Police. Raymond Close, 34, of Tolworth, southwest London, died after his Cortina was hit by Detective Constable Steven Bembo's car at Hampton, west London, in December 1992. The officer was later convicted of causing death by dangerous driving.

Pools winner dies

A factory worker who claimed his £2 million pools win had brought nothing but bad luck has died of lung cancer three years after his Littlewoods windfall. Doug Beynon, 69, of Craigston, Mid Glamorgan, told friends before he died that he and his wife would have swapped every penny of the win for their old life. His wife, Joyce, suffered a stroke during a celebratory cruise and became almost housebound.

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CPS drops child sex abuse case

By PAUL WILKINSON

FOUR married couples were cleared yesterday of involvement in an occult child sex ring after the prosecution offered no evidence. The court was told that allegations by four children of devil worship and ritual animal slaughter could not be substantiated.

The eight, who all live close to each other in a quiet, middle-class, residential suburb of Bishop Auckland in Co Durham, were arrested last

year after children claimed they had subjected them to sexual abuse during witchcraft and satanic rituals in an attic. The children, aged from six to sixteen, claimed they were drugged during the sessions and that photographs were taken.

But yesterday David Robson, QC, for the prosecution, told Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court that the charges against the eight were being dropped because much of the evidence was uncorroborated.

Outside court one of the accused, Brian Marsh, 46, a junior school teacher, said: "We would have preferred a trial because that was our best hope for the truth to come out. What is more worrying is that it can happen to anybody. There will be nothing to stop it once a kid points a finger. It is just one long slide from that to the day you appear in court."

"The police who dealt with us were quite fair and always gave the impression they knew the children were talking a load of rubbish, but behind them were senior officers, people in social services, who pressed ahead. It all got totally out of hand. Everything they said was automatically believed. They were encouraged to say more and more."

John and Patricia Staines, Brian and Pauline Marsh, Robert and Vivienne Crosby, and David and Victoria Thomas had denied a charge of conspiring to indecently assault five children between June 1990 and last February.

Men from the ministry follow trail of the beast

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE men from the ministry are to spend £3,200 in an attempt to solve the mystery of the Beast of Bodmin Moor, a big cat reputed to roam the Cornish countryside killing livestock.

Officially the beast does not exist, but Angela Browning, a junior Agriculture Minister, announced yesterday that zoologists from her department's research division will devote 26 days over the next two to three months to hunting the elusive predator.

Mrs Browning, MP for Tiverton, Devon, said: "I am aware of the serious concern felt by many people in the Bodmin area that particularly savage animals might have established themselves on the moor and are posing a threat to livestock and possibly people."

"I have asked for an investigation to be carried out to see if positive evidence can be obtained about the possible existence of a big cat or cats. Once the investigators have reported and the results have been considered, an announcement will be made

regarding any further action which might be taken."

The researchers will study written and photographic evidence of sightings of the cat, take plaster casts of unusual footprints for matching against those of exotic cats kept in zoos, and investigate the next five livestock deaths blamed on the cat.

Over the past 12 years there have been more than 100 claimed sightings of big cats on Bodmin Moor. Farmers say the beast has killed scores of sheep and even some newborn calves. One has video footage of what appears to be a black panther.

Rosemary Rhodes, who has a smallholding a few miles from Jamaica Inn, made famous by the novelist Daphne du Maurier, said: "I am delighted we are at last being taken seriously. Last April I stopped keeping sheep after I lost four breeding ewes. I have no doubt at all they were killed by a big cat."

Mrs Rhodes has video film, taken about a year ago, of what she believes is a melanistic leopard, the more cor-

rect name for a black panther. She also has more recent footage of what she thinks is a panther cub. Both sets of film have been handed to the ministry.

"I took the film at night using a powerful torch plugged into the battery of my Land Rover," she said. "If you drive over the moor lanes at night you can spot where the cats are because their eyes shine a peculiar bright lemon yellow in the dark. The cub just sat and watched us filming and then went away."

Douglas Richardson, curator of mammals at London Zoo, has seen the film and is confident that the animal is a black panther. He has also been shown dead sheep with wounds consistent with an attack by a big cat. "If cornered the animal could be a threat to unattended, small children," he said.

Sightings of large wild cats have been reported from all over Britain for years, starting with the so-called Surrey Puma near Godalming in 1963. None has been proved to exist.

1988 Darbyshire. Panther seen in Peak District.

1975 Wiltshire. West Midlands. Black leopard spotted.

1992 Kidderminster. Asian jungle cat spotted.

1989 Ludlow. Shropshire. Jungle cat knocked down by car.

1983 Black Beast of Ennors spotted. Royal Marines sent in, but failed to find it.

1983 Cornwall. First reported sighting of the Beast of Bodmin Moor, thought to be a black leopard.

1994 New Forest. Hampshire. Large black forest seen terrorising ponies.

1991 Isle of Wight. Big black cat, thought to be a serval, sighted.

1988 Hayling Island. Hampshire. Asian jungle cat knocked down by car.

1988. City of London. Only sighting of the Beast of Bodmin Moor, thought to be a black leopard.

1988 Dorset. Large black cat seen eating in a field next to M18.

1976 Nottinghamshire. Lion seen.

1976 Nuneaton. Puma sighted.

1983 First of more than 700 claimed sightings of Surrey Puma near Godalming.

1984 Dover. Police issue warning after reported sighting of a black leopard and cub.

1975 Black panther cub captured in Kent. East Pochter, Kent.

1980 Puma captured in the Scottish Highlands.

1985 Co Durham. Puma spotted.

Devolution

Continued from page 1

a tax-raising assembly would place Scotland against Scotland, and would lose Scotland investment. Mr Major said it would not be proper for Scottish MPs, with voting rights in their own parliament, to have the same voting rights on behalf of other parts of the UK.

Mr Brown implied that Labour planned to move control away from a centralised state but he gave few details.

Labour is committed to legislation on Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly in their first year of office but Mr Blair is still concerned that the argument for devolution has not been won in the country.

Later Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, argued that there could be further changes to the amount of time given to Scottish business at Westminster as an alternative to devolution. There could also be more opportunities for other regional debates at Westminster, he said.

Asked about Tory support for Labour opposition to devolution in 1974, he said: "Labour were right then and we were wrong then."

BY JILL SHERMAN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

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Slander win ruined my life, says GP sued by solicitor

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A DOCTOR who has not received any of the £320,000 damages and costs he was awarded after being slandered by his solicitor for £181,000 in fees.

Dr Malcolm Smith brought a slander action after Dr Alanah Houston, his GP partner, accused him of sexual harassment at their Northampton surgery. He says that he faces financial ruin despite his court victory. "I have not had a penny of my legal costs or damages," he said yesterday. "I wish the action for slander had not happened. It has ruined my life."

Dr Houston declared herself bankrupt in the wake of

the court action and therefore unable to pay the damages. She was barred from practising as a GP and does family planning work in health centres.

As a result Dr Smith, 39, cannot pay his own legal bills. Today he will argue at a chambers hearing in the High Court in London that his solicitor, Thomas Watts of South Kensington, should not have summary judgment against him for fees of £181,000, with interest. Mr Watts says the sum is the balance owed from a total legal bill of £270,000 for the case. Dr Smith has paid almost £90,000 after remortgaging his and his father's house, using all his savings and taking out loans.

In the face of the writ from Mr Watts for the outstanding legal fees, Dr Smith has now issued his own writ against the solicitor, claiming negligence on the ground that Mr Watts did not do enough to enforce the court's judgment in favour of Dr Smith or to pursue the damages award against Dr Houston, a mother of two who now works at Milton Keynes.

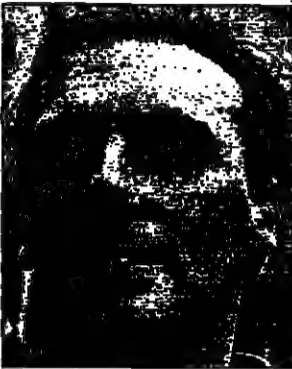
"I believe Dr Houston should never have been allowed to go into bankruptcy," Dr Smith said. "If she set out to ruin me, it looks like she is going to achieve her aim."

For Dr Houston, too, the case has meant financial ruin, although she could be discharged as a bankrupt within 12 months and all debts connected with the legal action cleared. In October 1989 she accused him within earshot of patients of sexually molesting her and other female staff at their surgery in Northampton. Dr Smith sued for slander in 1991, winning £270,000 costs and record damages for slander of £150,000. That figure was cut last month to £50,000, which is still a record. Setting

the new figure, Lord Justice Hirst said in the Court of Appeal that the allegations had been "undoubtedly a slander of the utmost seriousness". Dr Smith was also awarded trial costs estimated at £165,000, although the figure has not been formally agreed or "taxed" by the court.

In a similar case, Lord Aldington was awarded £15 million in a libel case against Count Nikolai Tolstoy in 1989 but did not receive any of the award. Count Tolstoy was declared bankrupt shortly after the court case and lodged High Court proceedings to have the award overturned. His action was struck out as "frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of the process of the court".

The system of civil justice is being reviewed by Lord Woolf, the law lord. Next week he goes to Birmingham for the latest in a series of regional visits to invite views from a range of court users.



Smith: "I have not had a penny"



Houston: declared herself bankrupt

Students boycott Oxbridge club

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge students demanded a boycott yesterday of the historic London club that bears their universities' names as part of a campaign to win equal treatment for women.

Student leaders announced plans to resist the annual membership drive of the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club when it seeks recruits from this summer's graduates. The intervention opens up another front in the campaign to force the club in Pall Mall to allow women full membership.

It follows the resignation of David Butler, the political scientist, who disclosed in *The Times* on Wednesday that he was leaving the club his grandfather helped to found in 1817. College principals are also seeking legal advice to challenge the club's right to use the universities' crests.

Hopi Sen, president of the Oxford University Student Union, said that stu-

dents would demonstrate if the club held receptions in Oxford this summer to court new members. "We are opposed to any kind of discrimination. We will keep campaigning until it changes its ways."

Anna Dixon, president of Cambridge University Student Union, said the club's refusal to change was outrageous. "It is our responsibility to educate new graduates about it and dissuade them from joining a chauvinist and elitist club."

Full membership of the club is restricted to male graduates. London members aged 32 or over pay £574 annual subscription, with those living at least 100 miles from the capital paying £430. Fees for people aged 20 or less are £183 and £137 respectively. Women can join only as associate members, and are not permitted to use the library, main staircase or members' bar.

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Boy, 10, dies from flesh-eating bug

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged ten has died after contracting the so-called flesh-eating bug necrotising fasciitis. Doctors believe the boy may have contracted the fatal disease after being bitten on the hand by another child.

Alan Mitchell, of Rutherglen, Strathclyde, died in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, on Sunday after a three-hour operation in which three surgeons had to remove much of his left leg and part of his abdomen in an effort to stop the rapidly spreading virus.

Abasdar Fyfe, consultant surgeon at the hospital, emphasised the chances of a child contracting necrotising fasciitis were extremely rare. "I have been working here for 15 years and I have not seen another case."

Dr Jo Michie, consultant bacteriologist at the hospital, said up to 20 per cent of children carried the streptococcal A bug that causes the disease, but for most it was harmless, but occasionally manifested as a sore throat and

there was a possibility that Alan, who had Down's syndrome, could have contracted the disease after being bitten on the hand before Christmas by another child at the special school that he attended.

Alan was referred to the hospital by his GP because he was suffering from flu-like symptoms. He was examined on Monday, January 2, by a doctor and sent home. The following day he was no better and he was admitted to hospital, where initial tests suggested he might have some form of hepatitis.

Dr Charles Clark, medical director of the hospital, said Alan deteriorated rapidly and by Thursday his left leg was swollen and he was admitted to intensive care. Radical surgery was carried out that night.

Alan died at 6am on Sunday. Mr Fyfe said the disease had spread extensively within a matter of hours. It was impossible to tell whether Alan would have survived had he been operated on sooner.



Roy Hanney yesterday. He was arrested at the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot in 1990

£30,000 for man beaten by police

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A VIDEO engineer who claimed he was rugby tackled during a poll tax riot and later assaulted by police accepted £30,000 in agreed damages yesterday.

Roy Hanney, 33, sued the police for false imprisonment, assault and battery and malicious prosecution on "concocted" evidence. He claimed that he was one of many people caught helplessly in the middle of "violent and arbitrary charges by police officers with shields and batons drawn" during the 1990 poll tax riot in Trafalgar Square.

The High Court was told yesterday that Mr Hanney, from Brixton, south London, had been tackled by two officers while he watched the riot and took photographs. He was grabbed around the neck and taken to a van where PC Tony Egan punched him near the mouth, temple and eye.

Raju Bhatt, solicitor for Mr Hanney, said: "While the plaintiff remained bent over... trying to protect his head and face, PC Egan continued to strike further blows." Mr Hanney was held at Rochester Row police station where, unknown to him, Nicola

Todd, who had witnessed the incident, made a complaint about his treatment.

He stood trial at Southwark Crown Court on a charge of affray. PC Egan, PC Richard Ramsay and four other officers gave evidence, repeating false allegations. But after hearing from Ms Todd the jury sent the judge a note saying they were "unanimously convinced" of his innocence.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, denied liability but agreed to pay damages and substantial costs. Outside the court Mr Hanney, who is single and unemployed, criticised the Metropolitan Police's attitude: "It is a joke that the Police Commissioner refuses to accept liability. He obviously believes his officers can do what they want."

An inquiry by the Police Complaints Authority concluded that PC Egan should be "strictly admonished". He and PC Ramsay continue to serve in the force. Last year the Metropolitan Police paid £1,050,000 in settlement of 174 cases and £84,000 in 11 cases contested in court.

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Waldegrave rejects ban on veal exports

William Waldegrave after yesterday's meeting with animal welfare campaigners

They "questioned the propriety of the corporation's use of public money to purchase and distribute free concert tickets worth more than £100,000. The MDC did "too little, too late" in planning the events", the MPs said. "It is astonishing that the regatta events were virtually upon the corporation without them realising there would be losses". They said the Department of Environment, set up in 1981 to regenerate the area, should "ensure that budgetary controls are in place and operating to safeguard public funds".

A black and white photograph of a Fiat Ritmo car parked in front of a building with a balcony. The car's license plate reads 'MAURITIUS'. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost solarized appearance.

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Winning Move: page 40

Schools face long-term shortage of head teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PRIMARY schools are facing a long-term shortage of head teachers, according to research published today, which shows the first rise for five years in the number of vacancies for headships.

Almost 1,800 of the 19,000 primary schools changed head teacher last year, an 18 per cent increase on the year before, and the trend has accelerated in the first weeks of 1995. London schools faced the greatest difficulty, almost a third of those seeking a head having to re-advertise the post in 1994.

Secondary schools, which have a smaller pool of headships commanding higher salaries, suffered a less serious decline. Thirty fewer posts were advertised and there was only one more re-advertisement.

John Howson, deputy head of Oxford Brookes University's school of education, who conducted the survey, said: "These figures contain real warning signs for the Government. Important recruitment to primary teacher training courses is healthy, teachers may be reluctant to become heads if it means managing reduced budgets and making

former colleagues redundant." The survey, now in its tenth year, showed even greater turmoil in primary schools during the 1980s, when more than 2,000 posts were changing hands each year.

But Mr Howson said: "The country cannot afford to return to the levels seen during the last economic boom, because the importance of primary schooling and the pivotal role of the head has now been recognised."

The Oxford Brookes researchers see no sign of an early reversal of the trend, however. Almost a hundred headships were advertised in *The Times Educational Supplement* in the first week of January, 5 per cent of last year's total.

Mr Howson said: "The pressure on education budgets may well lead more senior heads to take early retirement in the interests of their schools, so that the post can be filled more cheaply and redundancies avoided. This can backfire if good candidates are not prepared to take headships at the salaries offered."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the survey confirmed the association's fears about recruitment prospects.

"Increases in stress-related ill-health retirements and excessive workloads, coupled with the removal of deputy head posts as a consequence of the underfunding of school budgets, will inevitably cause the problem indicated by the Oxford Brookes survey to worsen," he said.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, has made improvements to the quality of school leadership one of her priorities. The Headlamp Scheme, to be introduced in April, will provide a training grant of up to £2,500 for all new head teachers.



Shepherd: training grant for heads

Clergyman denies assaulting pupil

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CLERGYMAN who teaches religious education admitted to police that he had physically restrained a 12-year-old girl in his class, a court was told yesterday. But the Rev James Scott, who denies assault, insisted he had used minimum force to stop the girl hitting another pupil.

Mr Scott, 46, gave his explanation of the incident in a letter to police in answer to a charge of assaulting the pupil by striking her arm with his hand at Elgin Academy, Grampian.

Elgin Sheriff Court was told that the girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had a bruised arm after the incident last September. Mr Scott's

letter to police, which was read to the court, said that the girl had been "striking out" at another pupil. "I used minimum force to restrain her. My left hand made contact with her right arm. She was not hurt. A pupil shouted out at me: 'You could be done for that. She can get you for that.' I said that was nonsense."

The girl told the court that Mr Scott, a full-time teacher who had worked at the school since 1979, had struck her without warning during the lesson. She had been speaking to a classmate, but had ended the conversation before she was hit, she added.

The trial was adjourned for three weeks.



Christopher Lee, often bracketed with Peter Cushing in horror film roles, arriving with his wife Birgit for the memorial service yesterday

Stars recall the playful gentleman of horror

ACTORS gathered yesterday to remember Peter Cushing, the gentle man of horror.

Cushing, who died from cancer last August aged 81, had doubted that anyone would attend a memorial service because he scarcely realised the deep affection in which he was held. But Kevin Francis, his friend and producer, told him: "It's free. You know these theatricals, if you're giving it away they'll come."

Many of them did go to St Paul's Church in Covent Garden to remember the star of 91 films, who was best known for his Hammer horror roles, in which he was usually cast as the sinister doctor or scientist rather than the monster. Christopher Lee, often his co-star, said: "People all over the world wanted to pay tribute when he died because he was such a wonderful man and a wonderful actor."

Donald Sinden said: "I knew him for 40 years and he was such a sweet man and a jolly fine actor. We used to play absurd games where we

would make model aeroplanes and hang them from the ceiling with cotton and little parachutists attached. Then we would lie on the floor and try to shoot them down with pea-shooters."

Joanna Lumley said: "He was the most gentle man I have ever met, quite enchanting and a meticulous actor." Richard Briers never met him but they corresponded for many years over their mutual love of Victorian theatre. "He was always the perfect gentleman but like an idiot I never went to see him. He was certainly in the First XI as an actor," he said.

Ron Moody said: "He was the kindest man. I remember him with affection and admiration. I appeared with him in *The Legend of the Werewolf*. He was the good man and I was the one with the teeth."

Mr Francis said: "He went through life with a Peter Pan quality. There were no later years with Peter because he never really grew up." Friends remembered how dinner parties at his home



Richard Briers and Joanna Lumley arriving at St Paul's, the actors' church

would include a selection of games, so much so that Waddingtons used to send him all their latest to try.

But the laughter ended for him in 1971 when his wife Helen died and his remaining years were spent waiting to be reunited with her.

Cushing was best known for his horror roles but they represented only about a third of his output. He appeared in *A Chump at Oxford* in 1939 opposite Laurence Olivier and was Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which also starred Christopher Lee.

Tributes were paid to Joyce and Bernard Broughton, who looked after him for many years at his home in Whitstable, Kent.

Memorial service, page 18

House fire kills couple and father

Three members of the same family died in a fire that destroyed their home early yesterday. Bob Austin, 57, his wife Mary, 60, and her father, Clarence Soar, 91, were asleep upstairs when fire broke out in a ground-floor room.

Mr Austin managed to call the fire brigade before he was overcome by the smoke and flames in the house in Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. The cause of the fire is unknown. Neighbours made desperate attempts to save the family but were beaten back by heat and thick smoke.

Home stripped

Burglars stripped a house at Bramley, Surrey, of antique furniture, paintings and jewellery worth nearly £200,000 while the owner spent the night away. Included in the haul was a £60,000 farmyard scene by the British artist John Herring.

£25m fraud case

Three former directors of a Midlands car dealership are to appear before Loughborough magistrates on a £25 million fraud and VAT evasion charge. Their company, Swithland Group, went into receivership in 1993 after flotation plans were abandoned.

Whistle blowers

Nottingham City Council has set up a hot-line for women offended by wolf-whistles from workmen in the street. The Labour council is also encouraging the public to report bad workmanship by council contractors or cable companies.

Lottery charge

James Model, 25, of Fulham, west London, who allegedly tried to defraud the National Lottery of £800,000 by claiming he had a winning ticket on its first draw, chose jury trial when he appeared before Bow Street magistrates. He was bailed until February 9.

One door opens

The Georgian door of a Dublin house immortalised by James Joyce as the Blooms' home in *Ulysses*, transferred from Eccles Street to the Bailey pub in 1967 when the house was demolished, is to be moved again now that the pub is to be knocked down.

A doctor writes

Liverpool University is to confer an honorary doctorate on the science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke on January 26, via a satellite link to Sri Lanka, where the 77-year-old author lives. He will be shown accepting the degree and responding to the oration.

Stranded seamen resort to DIY dentistry

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE people of Shetland have clubbed together to pay for a trip to the dentist for Bulgarian seamen after their ship's doctor was forced to remove a man's rotten teeth with rusty pliers.

The Fishermen's Mission in Lerwick has raised £500 to allow four Bulgarians aboard two vessels impounded off the coast of Shetland for four months to receive proper treatment.

The stranded seamen, known as Klondikers after the fish factory ships

on which they serve, are surviving the bitter Shetland winter by scavenging and relying on charity. Some say they have not been paid for three years.

Christo Dimitrov, the doctor on board the *Rotalia*, which with her sister ship the *Akatina* has been held over non-payment of debts, says that medical supplies on board will run out within days.

Seriously ill crewmen are treated in the local hospital but there has been no money for dental treatment and Dr Dimitrov was this week forced to extract the tooth of a colleague, Jordan

Jordanov, with pliers, even though they were not sterilised properly.

"This man has a very strong pain and I must extract his tooth. This instrument is very old and not very good," Dr Dimitrov said, holding up a worn pair of pliers. "That is why I am afraid of infections. I am a doctor and a surgeon but I am not a dentist. It is very traumatic for me to have to make the extraction in my office." He said that he had enough anaesthetic and antibiotics to treat Mr Jordanov but his supplies would soon be gone.

The crew of the *Rotalia* were due to fly home to Bulgaria yesterday but 31 of the 50 ship's crew began a strike and are staying on board until they receive some wages.

The International Transport Federation has taken up their case with the Bulgarian owners Okeanski Ribolov.

The federation has been granted power of attorney by the men and is prepared to auction the ships to pay them. However, the owners have warned the crewmen that they will have to pay for the air fares for the flights they missed yesterday as well as making their own way home to Bulgaria.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

British veal finds renewed favour

By ROLAND BUERK

BRITISH veal is selling well at much lower prices than the Dutch variety banned by most supermarkets. Home-produced veal medallions at Tesco are £6.49 a lb and loin steaks £5.99 a lb. At Sainsbury, home-produced veal schnitzel is £8.49 a lb. Some Asda stores stock veal from RSPCA-approved suppliers at £8.60 a lb. Harrods' veal escalope is £10.80 a lb. Only Marks and Spencer stocks Dutch veal escalope, at £9.59 a lb.

Easy-to-prepare grey mullet is the best fish buy. Medium sized whole fish are about £1.40 a lb. Bass is a bargain at £4 a lb for smaller fish. Advertised best buys include: Asda: chicken breast

fillets £2.85 a lb; beef tomatoes 59p a lb; pasta spirals 59p for 375g; Hock Jacob Demmer £1.99 for 75cl. Budgets: low-fat sausages 99p for 400g; 160 superior blend tea bags 88p; Del Monte cooking sauces 99p for 450g; Co-op: fresh chicken thighs and drumsticks £1.69 for 2lb; closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb; thick pork sausages 57p a lb; Sara Lee double chocolate meringue pie 99p.

Harrods: biltong sticks £2.10 each; honey-roast ham on the bone £1.30 for 100g; 4oz siltion jar £4.75; Serrano ham £2.95 for 100g. Iceland: Bowyers half-fat sausages £2.79 for 2lb; Ski diet yoghurt £1.99 for 12; 9in smoked ham and mushroom pizza £1.49. Marks and Spencer: Aberdeen Angus rump steak £5 a lb; mini prawn layer salad £1.29; cottage pie meal £1.49. Sainsbury: rump steak £2.78 a lb; Irish mild cheddar £1.19 for 400g; Granny Smith apples 29p a lb; Bavaria pilsner £2.49 for 10 x 25cl. Sainsbury: prime beef sirloin £4.58 a lb; Lyons apple pies 99p for 12; white seedless grapes 99p a lb; Norlander Spanish premium lager £1.99 for 6 x 25cl.

Somerfield: fresh chicken Kiev £1.34 for 254g; red apples 29p a lb; Heinz Weight Watchers beef lasagne 99p for 395g; Royal Dutch lager £1.95 for 10 x 25cl. Tesco: pork spare rib chops 99p a lb; apricots 99p a lb; fresh whole rainbow trout £1.88 a lb; English farmhouse cheddar £2.19 a lb. Waitrose: farmhouse pork boneless leg roast £1.59 a lb; Seville oranges £1.15 a lb; espresso coffee £1.75 for 8oz; mature Australian cheddar £1.89 a lb.

Times £100 winners

THE ten winners of the *Times* Best Buys Christmas competition, who each receive a voucher worth £100 with the compliments of Harrods, Asda, Somerfield/Gateway, Marks and Spencer and Sainsbury are: Miss M Pell of Lee, southeast London; Mrs P Sharrocks of Sheffield; P Wheelon of Stirling; Birmingham; Mr R Harward of Isleworth, west London; Mr B McLoughlin of Streatham, southwest London; J C Izod of Sticksy, Lincolnshire; Mrs G Mallinson of Huddersfield; Mrs D Hornsby of Pinner, northwest London; Mr J Howard of Ilfracombe, Devon; and Miss B Nagda of Harrow, northwest London.

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Debate that ignites party passions but leaves the voters cold

Anyone watching Prime Minister's questions yesterday will have wondered whether John Major and Tony Blair had wandered into a political never-never land. They and fellow MPs — spent more than three-quarters of the 15-minute session on an issue which most voters neither know nor care about. According to recent MORI polls, the number of people mentioning a Scottish assembly as among the most important issues facing Britain today does not register nationally and is mentioned by just 1 or 2 per cent of those in Scotland — though it did matter more

PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE LOWE

north of the border in the last election. Devolution is still predominantly an issue for the political world. It has important implications but little significance for most voters in England. Yet, paradoxically, it is as much an English question as a Scottish and Welsh one. As in the late 1970s, its outcome will be determined primarily by voters and MPs in England, rather than just voters and the 110 MPs from Scotland and Wales. It was, after

all, English MPs that inserted the crucial additional hurdle that 40 per cent of the whole electorate, and not just a majority of those turning out, had to vote in favour of devolution that scuppered the Government's proposals in March 1979. The question has arisen now partly because Labour has chosen to highlight constitutional reform, but also because the Tories see an issue on which they can mount a united counter-attack. Add in the new year resolution of the media, particularly the broadcasters, to scrutinise Labour policies and you have a recipe for overkill. At Westminster yesterday, it seemed as if the clock had been turned back 20 years as a succession of Scottish MPs from all parties popped up to give their views.

The absolutist positions are the easiest to argue. Alex Salmond, the Scottish nationalist leader, will be a media star if the devolution debate ever captures the popular imagination. He was at his most fluent yesterday in attacking Tory and Labour positions and arguing for outright independence. Similarly, Mr Major has rarely been so eloquent as when he has been attacking threats to the union, as yesterday. This is even though

three-quarters of the Scottish public have regularly voted for parties opposing the status quo and a similar proportion have consistently backed a change in Scotland's constitutional position in opinion polls. The devolution case is harder to explain because it raises so many questions about relations between a Scottish parliament and Westminster. There are plenty of loose ends. The knock-on effects for England were an insurmountable obstacle in the 1970s. Labour recognises that it has to win the public debate. Gordon Brown yesterday

sought to broaden the argument by putting Labour's call for a Scottish Parliament into the context of the party's general attack on centralisation and lack of accountability. His case is that a large amount of Government is already devolved administratively, but it is not accountable to those directly affected. But Labour has still not adequately addressed the implications for Scottish MPs at Westminster of devolving legislative control over social affairs and limited tax raising powers.

Home rule all round, as it was called a century ago in the debate over Irish home rule, is not enough. There is probably a stronger demand in England for decentralisation than there was in the late 1970s, but that can be achieved by reviving local authorities rather than by creating a new regional tier.

Labour has to give much fuller answers to these questions if it is not again to be tripped up. The Tories cannot merely rest on these difficulties to claim that nothing can be done in Scotland. The political energies now being exerted in Northern Ireland will have to be applied by the Tories in Scotland.

PETER RIDDELL

Brown promises a stronger, more democratic union

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN forcefully put the case for devolution in Scotland and Wales yesterday, insisting that Labour's proposals would strengthen the union rather than weaken it. In an effort to strengthen his party's position in an area where the Tories consider it to be most vulnerable, the Shadow Chancellor emphasised that Labour was not proposing separation, but greater regional democracy. Labour is committed to legislation on a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly in their first year in office but the leadership feels that the argument on devolution has yet to be won. The party is also keen to highlight an area in which Labour and the Tories hold opposing views.

Mr Brown, arguing for "a new constitutional settlement" in a speech at Westminster, said that power was at present concentrated in Whitehall and unelected quangos. "People talk of a West Lothian ques-

tion. The biggest question is the Whitehall question: why our constitution is over-centralised, over-secretive and over-bureaucratic and why there is not more openness and accountability."

He said that non-elected government organisations now spent £50 billion of taxpayers' money a year, a fifth of all public expenditure. This amounted to more money than the whole of elected local government. Fifty thousand Tory appointees now sat on these bodies.

"It is time to put the case for a modern constitution which enhances individual liberties without an overbearing centralised State," he said. "This is devolution from the centre to bring government closer to the people. It is not separation."

In refusing to accept devolution, John Major was out of touch with the people. "What Mr Major attacks in Europe — centralist, bureaucratic, remote, intrusive and unac-

countable government — he is prepared to defend in Britain."

Scotland was a prime example of remote government in need of reform. The Scottish Office had 7,000 civil servants, covered nine departments of state, spent £12 billion a year and had distinctive legislation in key areas. Yet the Scottish Office was held to account by just one Commons question time every few weeks. "A few hours of parliamentary questioning every year."

Although he revealed few new details about Labour policy, Mr Brown denied that creating a Scottish parliament would cost the rest of Britain extra money. Spending would be allocated from the Treasury based on need. The elected body would merely take over the work of the Scottish Office and make it democratic. If the Scottish parliament wanted to spend more, it would have to justify that decision to its electors, Mr Brown said.

Under present Labour policy the parliament would be able to cut or raise taxes by 3p.

Mr Brown said there was no question of separation. "Seventy per cent of Scottish employees in industry are employed by companies based outside Scotland, and it makes no sense to cut Scotland off from its nearest neighbour, England, while seeking to be part of a bigger Europe which includes England."

There would be no duplication of defence or foreign affairs and there were no plans for different regimes of corporate tax.

Mr Brown made clear that Scottish MPs would still have the right to vote on all issues affecting the United Kingdom, and there were no plans to reduce their number from the present 72.

Leading article, page 17

National party seeks referendum in Wales

By Jonathan Pryn, Political Reporter

DAFYDD WIGLEY, the Plaid Cymru leader, demanded a referendum on the future of Wales yesterday.

The people of Wales, who rejected devolution by a majority of four to one in 1979, should be offered the choice of keeping the status quo, having a devolved assembly within the United Kingdom or full independence. Mr Wigley said. "The Prime Minister has acknowledged the right of the people of Northern Ireland to determine their own constitutional future and I call on him to recognise the same fundamental right for the people of Wales and Scotland."

Recent polls show that a clear majority of the Welsh population now supports increased self-government. Plaid secured its highest share of the Welsh vote in last year's European election, putting it ahead of the Tories.

Labour is in favour of an assembly with limited financial and legislative powers. The Liberal Democrats support a federal Britain with a Welsh Senedd in Cardiff.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY, in the Commons questions to Home Office ministers were followed by questions to the Prime Minister, at which there was an exchange between John Major and Tony Blair on Labour proposals for a Scottish assembly. Mr Blair went on to give a second reading to the Town and Country Planning (Code of Regulations) Bill and to debate the provision of childcare facilities at Parliament.

In the Lords, the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill started its committee stage. TODAY, in the Commons, MPs will debate the role of the Criminal Justice in improving public services. The House of Lords is not sitting.



Salmond decries 'botched' job

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE Scottish nationalists attacked Labour's plans for devolution as "full of holes and a botched job" yesterday and said that the case for independence for Scotland was now unanswerable.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, which won nearly 37 per cent of the vote in Scotland in last year's European election, said that Labour's proposals would be rejected by the Scottish people, who were increasingly supporting demands for full independence. England, he said, would benefit from a friendly independent neighbour rather than a recalcitrant lodger.

Mr Salmond, speaking at an SNP press conference in London, gave a warning that under Labour proposals a Scottish parliament would have no powers over social security, so it could not restore benefits to 16 and 17-year-olds, no power to scrap VAT on fuel and no power over defence, so it could not banish Trident from Scottish waters. The parliament would have no access to the valuable North Sea oil and gas reserves and no direct access to key decision-making bodies in the European Union.

"I think people in that

assembly will soon get frustrated at the idea of not having power on all these areas where there is a consensus in Scotland, and yet Westminster would hold the power and indeed the purse strings."

Mr Salmond said that Labour had not answered the question of why the 72 Scottish MPs should continue to play a part in forming English legislation when English MPs would have no say over Scottish affairs. He accused Labour of thinking only about the party's interests. "Ours is a policy of high principle and not low political expediency," he said.

He condemned the suggestion of setting up regional assemblies throughout Britain. "Gordon Brown is trying to sell this as a case for decentralisation but Scottish independence is not about greater decentralisation. We are not just an area, region, district or county. We are a country with a history."

Mr Salmond also criticised the Tories' stand against independence, saying: "It really just isn't tenable to continue to govern Scotland with a group of hostile MPs in Westminster dictating every area of Scottish life."

Lib Dems present Bill for Scots parliament

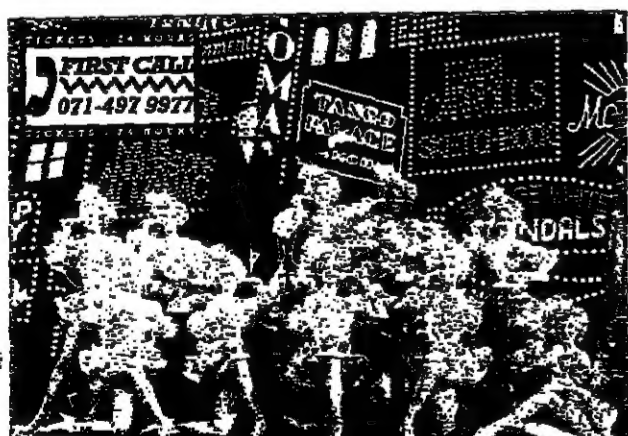
THE Liberal Democrats are to present a Bill for a Scottish parliament to the Commons next week (Alice Thomson writes).

The party pointed out yesterday that the Liberals had been arguing for a Scottish parliament for more than 100 years. Menzies Campbell, MP for Fife North East, said the Home Rule Scotland Bill 1995 would create a parliament of 125-175 members to be elected for a four-year term by proportional representation. The body would have revenue raising powers and legislative authority for

all public policy-making relating to Scotland, except for defence and international and macro-economic affairs.

"There would be a Scottish prime minister who would appoint members of the Scots Parliament to a Scottish government," Mr Campbell said.

The Scottish Parliament would be able to raise revenue by a standard income tax of a maximum 3p in the pound but it would not have the power to change VAT or corporation tax. There would be a reduction in the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster.



Theatre tickets for a crazy 20p

The musical *Crazy For You*, based on Gershwin's 1930s hit *Girl Crazy*, starring Tim Flavin and Helen Way won the Olivier Award for best musical in 1993. It is one of more than 150 shows in our 20p theatre ticket offer. When you buy one ticket at £30 you can receive another for just 20p. The offer is valid for Monday to Thursday evenings and Thursday and Saturday matinees until February 28.

More than 50 regional theatres are in our offer, including the Bristol Old Vic, where you can see Bernard Hill in Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*. At the Royal Theatre in Northampton you can see a new stage adaptation of L.P. Hartley's *The Go Between*.

Details of 16 West End shows and 11 other London shows available in our offer were printed on Tuesday. Tomorrow we will print the first part of a list of more than 130 productions in regional theatres.

To book your 20p theatre ticket, collect the six tokens which are appearing each day until Monday. When you have all six, select your show and telephone the number given. When you buy one ticket at the listed price, you will receive a second ticket for the same performance for 20p. On Monday we will reprint the application form, plus a bonus token in case you have missed one.

Theatre Tickets Token 4

The first part of a list of more than 130 productions at regional theatres will be printed tomorrow

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Croats 'risk wider war' by barring UN troops

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations gave a warning yesterday that Croatia's decision to expel UN peacekeepers from its territory, starting at the end of March, could provoke a wider war in the Balkans.

President Tudjman formally announced that the UN presence in Croatia would be "terminated" at the end of its current mandate on March 31, and that UN troops would have to leave by the end of June. "The Croatian Government will immediately contact your special representative, Yasushi Akashi, and will discuss with him all the questions regarding the withdrawal of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor)," he wrote in a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General. "We hope it will be accomplished in a dignified, proper and efficient way until the end of the mandate or no later than three months after the expiry of the mandate."

UN officials said that the Croatian Government presented its decision as final, and noted that it had ignored diplomatic démarches from the main Western powers over the last week aimed at making it change its mind.

"It does not seem from the point of view of the Croatian Government that there is any room for change of this decision," said one high-ranking UN source. Within minutes of receiving President Tudjman's letter, Dr Boutros Ghali issued a statement warning of a resumption in fighting between the Croats and the Serbs after a three-year lull. "I am gravely concerned about the risk of renewed hostilities should UN peacekeepers be withdrawn from Croatia," he said.

One UN official said Croatia's determination to end the Unprofor presence was akin to Egypt's decision to expel UN troops from the Sinai Peninsula in 1987, which precipitated the Six-Day War.

Diplomats agreed that the departure of peacekeepers

from Croatia could suck the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia back into full-scale conflict, undermining the peace efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and threatening the UN force there. They said that President Milosevic of Serbia would come under heavy pressure from the Yugoslav National Army to intervene on the side of the Croatian Serbs. That would force him to end the isolation of the Bosnian Serbs — a key element in the current Bosnian peace process — so he could resupply the Croatian Serbs across Bosnian Serb territory.

About 12,000 UN troops are stationed in Croatia, policing Serb-held areas in Slavonia and Krajina, which cover about a third of Croatian territory. But the peacekeepers have been unable to fulfil their mandate of disarming the rebel Serbs and restoring Croatian government authority to so-called "UN Protected Areas".

In his letter, President Tudjman said the UN presence in Croatia was "counter-productive to the peace process", and was promoting the Serb occupation of Croatian territory.

He complained that the UN force had been unable to disarm the rebel Serbs; to establish an ethnically mixed local police force; to enable refugees to return to their homes; or to ensure control of the Croatia-Bosnia border.

But he did offer to allow the UN to maintain its existing Zagreb headquarters for the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia, and to continue to use Croatian territory to supply it. □ **Belgrade:** UN negotiators have secured the agreement of warring parties in Bosnia to sign new accords consolidating the first 13 days of their truce during negotiations chaired by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander-in-Bosnia. The pact should lead to the reopening of roads into Sarajevo by tomorrow.



The Pope tries on a Filipino straw hat given to him at Manila airport yesterday at the start of his five-day visit

Gunman held as thousands greet Pope in Manila

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

A HUGE security cordon was thrown around the Pope when a crowd of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos turned out to give him a superstar welcome in Manila yesterday.

Looking frail, the 70-year-old pontiff walked gingerly down the steps from his chartered Alitalia aircraft at Manila airport where he was greeted by President Ramos and his wife, Amelita.

Up to 500,000 Roman Catholic Filipinos lined the six-mile route from the airport shouting "Viva Il Papa", waving yellow Vatican flags, and racing on foot after his bullet-proof "Popemobile".

About 20,000 policemen were mobilised to protect the Pope during his five-day stay in Manila, following the arrest of two foreigners said to be Muslim extremists who had allegedly plotted to attack him. Material for making bombs was discovered at the scene of the arrest.

Police also arrested a man carrying a pistol as he mingled among the crowds of well-wishers. Witnesses said the man claimed he was a

member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), a unit assigned to guard President Ramos and special guests. "The PSG guards there asked him for the password. He was not able to give the password, so they hauled him in," a police officer said. A photographer said the man appeared to have an expired PSG badge.

President Ramos, a Protestant, had declared a holiday and ordered government funds to be spent on the celebrations. The gesture brought a truce from Roman Catholic bishops, with whom he had repeatedly clashed over contraception.

In his address, the Pope touched on relations between Church and State in the Philippines. "The Church and the political community work on different levels and they are mutually independent," the pontiff said. "But they serve the same human beings. In that service, there is ample room for dialogue, co-operation, and mutual support, for the pride and glory of the nation as a beacon of peace and harmony in Asia."

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Paris hits high note as city of music

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND was due last night to open the Cité de la Musique, the second last of the great projects he has commanded in his 14-year rule, transforming the Paris skyline more than any leader since Napoleon III. Mahler's *Tenth Symphony* was chosen as the launch music in the 1,100-seat concert hall at the heart of the lavish complex at the Parc de la Villette, the old slaughterhouse area on the northeastern edge of the city. The 1.3 billion franc (£162 million) buildings, which took 13 years to construct, bring Paris to the forefront of the world's musical capitals.

Designed by Christian de Portzamparc, a disciple of Le Corbusier, the curving, white complex offers 634,540 sq ft of studios, libraries, a museum, café and other buildings to provide venues for music of almost every genre.

However, the opening has offered a fresh target for critics who see Mitterrand's *grands travaux*, which range from the Louvre renovation to the great arch of La Défense, as aesthetically mediocre at best and at 30 billion francs, a huge drain on the public purse.

Libération, the left-wing newspaper that supported Mitterrand, said yesterday the "show-off" projects conceived in the 1980s now looked dated and ostentatious. Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, who looks almost certain to succeed Mitterrand, was unlikely to match his ambitions, it noted.

The last of the 12 projects, the controversial four-towered French National Library, is already a feature of the eastern Paris skyline but is not due to open until next year.

Balladur kills Bill to curb speeding

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

FRENCH drivers heaved a sigh of relief yesterday after the Government gave way to popular pressure and abandoned an attempt to impose stiff new penalties for speeding.

While the public cheered, safety groups denounced Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, for offering a gift to voters three months before the presidential elections. "The Government withdrew the speeding Bill, the brainchild of Bernard Bosson, the safety-conscious Minister of Transport, as it neared final parliamentary scrutiny, saying that there was no time left this session."

However, official sources said that M. Balladur killed the Bill because he was worried about the anger it was provoking among the country's drivers, who are as emotionally devoted to their motoring freedom as Americans are to their right to bear arms.

Only 30 months ago, France came to a near standstill when lorry drivers blockaded roads in protest against the last Government's scheme to impose a penalty points system for driving offences.

Under the Bill, already watered down in first readings, drivers caught at very high speeds would have been subject to criminal prosecution rather than the administrative fines now in force.

Fines would have ranged up to 7,500 francs (£930), with the possibility of a prison sentence for anyone driving more than 40mph above the 80mph limit on motorways. In towns, the margin was to have been 25mph above the 40mph limit.

Behind the outcry lay the belief of many motorists that speed is a minor cause of the accidents that kill 9,000 people a year, roughly double the British rate. A government survey last year found that 30 per cent of the French think that excessive speed has nothing to do with accidents.

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Mexican dream of riches shattered by peso's collapse

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MEXICO CITY

THE Mexican Government is picking up the pieces from its worst financial crisis in more than a decade. "It's difficult to understand what has happened. One minute they told us we are a rich country, and now they say we are poor again," said Miguel Alfageme, commercial director of an American car dealership in the capital.

After several boom years, when a growing middle class bought more and more American-made cars, Señor Alfageme forecasts a 30 per cent drop in business this year. In response to the devaluation of the peso, which has fallen from three to almost six against the dollar in the past three weeks, car prices have risen 10 per cent and are expected to increase further.

The crisis of confidence in the country's economic transformation has led to panic on the stock exchange, resulting in heavy losses for investors. The fall began last month when the Government ran out of money to support the overvalued currency.

Despite modest signs of recovery after a telephone call to President Zedillo from President Clinton promising American support, the crisis has already caused economic damage. There have been knock-on effects in stock prices as far away as Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

The peso's crash has also revived doubts about whether linking the vastly different economies of America and Mexico under the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) was such a good idea after all.

As the deal's first anniversary was being celebrated earlier

this month, Mexico overtook Japan as the second-highest buyer of American exports after Canada. But the exports are now expected to fall sharply because the peso's devaluation will make American products more expensive. Wal-Mart, the large American "superstore" which opened recently in Mexico, has already cut back on shipments of goods into the country. Mexican exports to America will be cheaper, fuelling Nafta opponents' fears of US job losses.

Mexico was, until recently, regarded as the Rolls-Royce of emerging markets. There is still money to be made after the Government raised interest rates on treasury bills from 13 to 40 per cent to try to stop the flight of capital. But investor confidence remains low — partly because of the Government's poor handling of the crisis.

The risks of a high interest rate policy are great. Many small businesses face closure as rates increase. Mexican credit card interest rates are now as high as 70 per cent.

"If interest rates remain this high for four to six weeks we could see 30 to 40 per cent of small businesses bankrupted," said Sergio Sarmiento, an economic analyst. "If that happens, we could see very serious social unrest."

Señor Zedillo last week announced a rescue plan, including international credit of \$12 billion, half of it provided by America. Mexican and US officials hope this will enable the country to pull the peso back to around 4.5 to the dollar and keep inflation in check while allowing American exports to remain competi-

itive. The Government has also imposed a wage and price freeze, limiting most salary increases to 7 per cent as well as slashing public spending. Shoppers are already complaining that many stores are raising costs of basic items such as cooking oil, milk and sugar by as much as 25 per cent. Others complain that companies are hoarding their stocks until the Government authorises future price increases.

On Wednesday, Volkswagen, the largest manufacturer of low-cost cars in Mexico, announced that it would close its plants for a week this month, with workers being paid 50 per cent of their salaries.

President Zedillo also faces a crisis of confidence in his personal handling of the currency debacle only weeks after taking office. Much of the blame for the collapse has been attributed to the young, US-educated technocrats — known as "los perfumados" (the perfumed boys) — who have risen to important positions in the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The party has run Mexico without a break for 66 years, and there are now increasing calls for democratic reform.

Mexico's latest crisis is the result of a system that lacks accountability and the checks and balances of a democratic system, according to Carlos Fuentes, a writer and one of the country's leading intellectual lights. "In the absence of any economic hope, the Government needs to provide the people with some political hope to overcome the crisis," he said.



Israeli soldiers evacuate two Palestinian children injured in an explosion near the Kissufim checkpoint in the Gaza Strip yesterday. The children's uncle, 18, who apparently mistook the bomb for a toy, was killed when it blew up in his hands (Christopher Walker writes).

Palestinian man dies, children hurt by bomb mistaken for toy

envelope at a rubbish dump near an Israeli military camp. In the West Bank city of Hebron, a curfew was imposed yesterday after Palestinians

attacked and wounded two Jewish settlers from France with axes and knives. One man received serious wounds to the head, chest and arms

but the other had only slight injuries. The attack increased tension in the city as next month's first anniversary approaches of the mosque massacre in which 30 Arab worshippers were shot dead by Baruch Goldstein, a New York-born Jew who, like yesterday's victims, also came from the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba. Letters, page 17

Protests force integrated school to halt HIV tests for blacks

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

ELIJAH SIDZE, 23, eyed smiling white teachers with suspicion as he waited outside the gates of the Afrikaans-language Suidhuys primary school near Alberton, Transvaal, to collect his two younger brothers yesterday afternoon. "To make black children take an AIDS test before admitting them to school is crazy and wrong," he said. "It was clearly racially motivated."

The school, in a mainly white area southeast of Johannesburg, has been the target of protests after it became known that black pupils were required to have HIV tests if they wished to enrol at the formerly whites-only school at the beginning of the academic year this week. Parents of many black children, fearing rejection, complied with the requirement.

The public outcry provoked by the school's application forms led yesterday to their withdrawal by the principal,

who has refused to comment. He has also instructed pupils not to speak to journalists.

The case is one of 21 others of racial discrimination being investigated by the Gauteng (formerly Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging) Education Ministry as schools throughout South Africa begin their first full year under the country's new fully racially integrated education system.

The Gauteng ministry has said that no discrimination will be tolerated.

A spokesman said yesterday that problems at two other schools, in Randfontein and Springs, had been resolved. The principal at Springs boys' high school apologised to Mary Metcalfe, the Education Minister, after it was revealed that his school had refused admission to blacks while still enrolling whites.

Despite several teething problems in the admissions process, indications are that

the transformation in the Gauteng region and elsewhere in South Africa has been remarkably smooth so far. There are now three types of school: private, fee-paying, government-funded, mainly black schools, commonly found in the townships around big cities; and Model C schools, such as Suidhuys, at which parents pay a part of the fees.

Model C schools, which offer a higher standard of education and are seen by members of the ruling African National Congress as elitist, have been the focus of attention this year since their intake of blacks was formerly controlled by fees and entrance examinations. They have reported a large increase in black admissions and many had to refer pupils to the government central admissions office.

While the change in terms of black entrants to Model C

schools is significant, the process has not been as far-reaching as some in the ANC would like. Robinson Ramatse, a Gauteng education spokesman, said the Government would cut aid to schools that had vacancies but refused to admit pupils whose parents could not pay fees.

With the spotlight on racial integration, the crisis in black-white schools appears to have been overshadowed by the Morris Isaacson high school in Soweto, where many classrooms are without doors or roofs. It has been an inauspicious start to the much-vaunted end of apartheid education. Many teachers did not turn up and stationery has not been delivered.

"Black education is still inferior in Soweto, and will continue to be so," said Ephraim Ntshangase, head of nearby Fimville junior school, which relies on corporate sponsorship to keep going.

Political killings return to KwaZulu

FROM MICHAEL HAMILTON IN DURBAN

A NEW bout of political murders has taken place in KwaZulu/Natal as the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party manoeuvre for advantage in 1995 elections which are planned for later this year. "The parties are trying to gain the support of the amaXhosi (tribal chiefs) and have involved King Goodwill Zwelithini in their political battle."

This week Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, president of Inkatha and Home Affairs Minister in President Mandela's national coalition Government, was elected chairman of the newly constituted House of Traditional Leaders in the province. He had earlier appeared cut off from politics in the region and isolated in Pretoria.

This week has also been marked by a political massacre in which five of the victims were children aged from five to nine. According to an Inkatha official, the family were Inkatha supporters and the assassins arrived at the family home during a wedding in a car owned by the son of a local ANC-supporting chief. Two weeks ago, ten people died in the same district and this week five more people were killed in a men's hostel in Durban, which a hostel residents' association blamed on Inkatha.

The ANC is planning to appeal to the Constitutional Court for a ruling that KwaZulu/Natal's House of Traditional Leaders is unlawful. The ANC resents the fact that it was established without adequate consultation, by legislation rushed through the provincial assembly by the Inkatha-dominated provincial government. It also objects to a provision which could allow the Zulu king to be deposed by a two-thirds majority of the House. Inkatha members fear that the court will uphold the appeal simply because the judges are mainly ANC supporters.

The ANC's support for the King is in contrast to the run-up to last year's general election when he was wielded like a banner by Chief Buthelezi, anxious to demonstrate the historical ethnic unity of the Zulu nation as expressed by Inkatha, backed by the monarchy. King Goodwill will appear on platforms apparently lending support to Inkatha's political stance. After the elections, however, the King was wooed away from Inkatha by the ANC, and a dramatic cooling of relations ensued between the king and his uncle, Chief Buthelezi.

This is not new ground for the Chief, who has spent much of his career establishing a power base that rivalled that of the monarchy.

González rival seeks early poll

Madrid: José María Aznar, leader of the centre right Popular Party, the main opposition to Spain's minority Socialist Government, is preparing an early election campaign after the failure of Felipe González, the Prime Minister, to resolve a political and economic crisis (Edward Owen writes).

Señor Aznar, 41, is seizing the initiative as his rival's credibility dips to a new low. The Madrid stock exchange has fallen to its worst level since 1992 and the peseta is also at a record low. The crisis was precipitated by allegations that the Government organised a death squad to kill ETA extremists in France a decade ago.

Aid suspended

Mogadishu: Relief agencies in the Somali capital have suspended all but emergency activities after kidnappers failed to release Rudy Mara, the French aid worker seized on December 17. (AFP)

Carey invited

Khartoum: In a further sign of political rapprochement with Britain after a series of tit-for-tat expulsions, Sudan has invited Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to visit the country. (AP)

Hot potatoes

Nicosia: A Cypriot farmer, on trial for illegal entry after trying to grow potatoes on a British base, fainted in court. A relative of Chamberlain Churchill said that he collapsed out of anger. (Reuters)

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Seismologists' warning and storms darken outlook for America's Golden State

Experts forecast more big quakes for Los Angeles

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

JUST 12 months after an earthquake that killed 60 people and damaged thousands of buildings, the residents of Los Angeles have been told to expect worse.

Seismologists said today that the area is overdue for a series of large tremors at least as large as last year's, or maybe the long-awaited "Big One". Analysis of last year's quake shows that while the epicentre was almost directly under the town of Northridge, northwest of central Los Angeles, most of its destructive energy was felt in the thinly populated Santa Susana mountains six miles further north. There the ground

movements were three times greater, enough to have brought down even modern steel-framed buildings.

Three papers in today's issue of *Science* show that Los Angeles has been enjoying an earthquake lull for 200 years, and that building codes thought to provide protection may not be tough enough.

A group of seismologists, led by James Dolan of the California Institute of Technology, studied six major faults in the Los Angeles region. From geological evidence they worked out the rate at which the faults have slipped, to determine how often each of them could be

expected to cause an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale, the same as the Northridge quake.

When all the faults are taken together, they would be expected to produce a quake of this size every 11 years. Yet in the past 195 years, only two such events have been recorded, instead of the 17 that might have been expected. This suggests, they say, that the period during which Los Angeles has been turned into a major city has coincided with a centuries-long quiescent period between clusters of such earthquakes.

Alternatively, if all the built-up strain were to be released in a single earthquake, it would have magnitude of between 7.2 and 7.6. Earthquakes of this size are predicted to occur in the region every 140 years, they conclude. The most recent was 210 years ago.

The effects of such a large earthquake would be substantially different from the recent, moderate Northridge earthquake in several important respects, they say. "A large earthquake would cause strong ground shaking over a much larger area and would have a much longer duration. Given the potentially devastating effects such a large earthquake would have on life and property in the region, we believe that Los Angeles must consider the potential for such an event in future planning scenarios."

A second paper in *Science* shows that, had all the Northridge quakes been as big as the one that was, it could have been much worse. Dr Thomas Heaton and Dr David Wald of the US Geological Survey in Pasadena, California, together with colleagues, show that modern steel-framed buildings are more vulnerable than expected to such quakes.

The movement of the shock up the fault lines and away from Northridge delivered a "quick jerk" to the largely unoccupied mountain region to the north. The same is true of ten other earthquakes they have studied.

"They then used a computer model to study how a 20-storey steel-framed building would respond to a quake of magnitude 7.0. The results showed that it would have collapsed, even though it fully met the 1991 California building code."

The conclusion is that the seismic pulses created by earthquakes, if they happen to go through built-up areas, pose "a fundamental problem" not only for steel-frame structures but for other types of buildings as well. Study of 100 buildings up to 16 miles from the Northridge quake has shown numerous breaks in their steel skeletons.



A man rescues his dogs from floods in Rio Linda, California, where hundreds of people were evacuated

British star flees flash flood

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



Seymour's second escape from floodwaters

FILM stars and homeless tent dwellers struggled yesterday against surging floodwaters and thick mud as southern California's deluge resumed after a tantalising reprieve.

Emergency crews worked round the clock to clear clogged motorways and re-open weakened bridges after Tuesday's storm, only for a new one to arrive on Wednesday night. Two more storms are forecast for the north of the state at the weekend.

Celebrities who have chosen to live in the secluded beach colonies and canyons of disaster-prone Malibu, were cut off from Hollywood, pumping out their homes or running for their lives.

Much of the exclusive promontory known as Malibu Colony, whose residents include Sting, Tom Hanks, Barbara Streisand, Pierce Brosnan (star of the next Bond film) and soap star Dick Van Dyke, was still under 3ft of water yesterday. Meanwhile shaken crew members of *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*, the television series starring the British

was washed away. We heard the word 'evacuate' and wasted no time."

Two years ago Seymour had to be pulled from a Cadillac, while filming a pilot episode for the series, to escape floodwaters as the same stream burst its banks with even less warning.

Official estimates of the cost of flood damage has more than doubled to \$112 million (£74.6 million) and President Clinton, who has promised federal aid to more than half the state, assured Californians: "We'll get through this, in good American style."

Three people were confirmed to have died in Tuesday's storm, including a Marine colonel on exercise and a boy, 11, who was swept down a stream.

In two exclusive oaseside retreats, Santa Barbara and Laguna Beach, the floods have ripped away beachfront walks and left entire neighbourhoods under several feet of mud. Seventeen inches of rain have fallen on the mountains above Santa

Barbara so far this year, while the disgruntled owner of the flooded Marine Room restaurant in Laguna Beach, where six inches fell in two hours last week, has suggested renaming his property the Submarine Room.

Some of the sorriest victims of the deluge are residents of a mainly immigrant working-class Santa Barbara neighbourhood left homeless by flooding. They may be ineligible for state aid because of their lack of documents.

In central California farmers warned consumers to prepare for price rises because of damaged avocado, orange and strawberry crops. Further north, picnic tables and a portable outhouse were left stranded on treestops as floodwaters retreated in the resort of Guerneville.

Rain is forecast for northern California until Monday.

Capital's Mayor attacked for 'high living'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MARION BARRY, Washington's Mayor, was under fire for reverting to his imperial ways yesterday, ten days after being sworn in as a redeemed champion of the poor in the nearly bankrupt American capital.

Nine police officers were reassigned from their regular duties to provide round-the-clock security for Mr Barry and his wife Cora as they celebrated their first wedding anniversary in a hotel suite that costs \$2,500 (£1,600) a night. The officers were in addition to Mr Barry's normal security detail of 12 who were in a nearby room.

There have been 11 murders in Washington this year and an increase in police patrols was one of many promises made during the election by Mr Barry, who portrayed himself as a reformed character. He had campaigned to win back the mayoralty after his arrest for cocaine possession, which was captured on videotape when a former girlfriend informed on him.

The police union asked if the Mayor was ignoring proposed budget cuts to form his own protection force, and residents around the Mayflower Hotel said that promises of extra foot patrols to curb crime had not been kept. In a flurry of finger-pointing, a spokeswoman for the Mayor said he was unaware that officers had been taken away from other duties to guard him. Fred Thomas, the police chief, said the same.

A Mayflower spokeswoman said the suite included four television sets which switched on automatically to different channels as soon as the front door was opened. The rate of \$2,500 was sometimes negotiable, the spokeswoman said, but she declined to say how much the Barrys were charged. Mrs Barry said she paid for the treat. "It was our anniversary and we didn't have time to go out of town. We had a wonderful time. I don't apologise for that."

There may be no need to, but the occasion did indicate that Mr Barry has not lost his taste for high living, a habit that caused him trouble during his first 12 years in office.

This was the second controversy since Mr Barry was sworn in. Questions have been raised about an elaborate security fence going up around his house. After conflicting accounts about who would pay for it, a police official said the city would spend about \$12,000 for the wood-and-chain-link portion while Mr Barry would pay for the elaborate brick facade.

Jackson backs fair deal for minorities

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE Rev Jesse Jackson has launched an urgent counter-offensive against a campaign in California to end employment quotas and other forms of positive discrimination that favour blacks and women.

The campaign against so-called affirmative action, to be voted on in 1996, is being presented as a drive for meritocracy and a "colour-blind" society. However, Mr Jackson, one of the country's leading black Democrats, said: "This is yet another attempt to roll back the process of inclusion." Before embarking on a tour of the San Francisco area he likened Pete Wilson, Governor of California, to the segregationist white governors of the 1950s and 1960s. Mr Wilson has yet to state his position on the new

initiative, which calls itself the "California Civil Rights Initiative", and is in the process of gathering the 415,000 signatures it needs to force a State referendum next year. But he has called for an end to legal preferences for minorities.

Written by two white male academics, the Civil Rights Initiative seeks to end such absurdities as highly qualified white applicants being rejected in favour of less qualified minority applicants because of legal obligations.

"It looks like white folks are doing the best they can to keep control of the state when we live in a time when minorities are rising to power," says the Rev Zakariya Broadson, president of the San Fernando Valley black civil rights group.

New Image Laser Eye Centre provides help for those with short-sight

The experience and knowledge of leading eye surgeons from around the world, combined with the latest laser technology can now give people with short sight an alternative to spectacles and contact lenses.

Over 100,000 people now find themselves less dependent on spectacles and contact lenses so that they can perform everyday activities with total confidence, thanks to a proven treatment that can correct the problem of myopia or short-sightedness.

The New Image Laser Eye Centre in London is equipped with the Summit OmniMed Laser System - the only laser to have been recommended for approval by the American FDA Ophthalmic Panel.

A trained clinical optometrist and consultant ophthalmologist conduct a

thorough, free examination and counselling to ensure patients are suitable for treatment and offered the ultimate in eye care.

The treatment, PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy), is clinically precise, using the computer controlled laser to skilfully reshape the cornea. The treatment itself takes up to 30 seconds and is painless. However, you may need follow up treatment and experience some discomfort afterwards.

"We can currently treat people with mild to moderate levels of short-sight", said clinical optometrist Sue Paul. "Anyone over the age of 21 with a stable prescription and healthy eyes can usually be treated. There is no upper age limit and we have achieved a high level of success. During the



Eye examinations of the highest standard

free consultation, we discuss thoroughly with each client how the treatment actually works and could benefit them. We assess their suitability and explain the comprehensive, all-inclusive after care programme."

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New Image Laser Eye Centre are holding an informal, free Open Meeting on Wednesday 18th January at 5.30pm to explain the successful development of laser eye treatment.

The session includes an introduction to the procedure, a tour round the Centre, an opportunity to meet patients who have been treated and time to deal with your individual questions. "We aim to clear up some of the mystery", says Sue Paul. If you would like more information, or to attend one of our next free Meetings, phone Sue Heath - 0171-929 2020, or return the coupon.

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Doctors treat sole survivor Erika Delgado as she arrives at a Cartagena hospital

Girl survives plane crash after falling into swamp

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Cartagena: A nine-year-old girl survived an aircraft disaster that killed all 51 other people on board yesterday after she was apparently pushed out of the crashing jet by her mother and landed in a swamp on a pile of seaweed.

Aviation authorities said Erika Delgado's survival from the crash of the Intercontinental de Aviacion DC9 in northern Colombia was a miracle. The plane crashed minutes before it was due to land in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena on a flight from Bogotá.

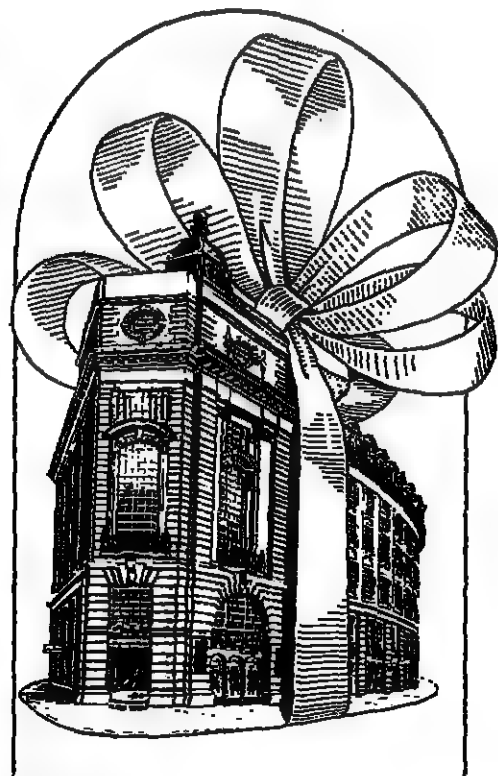
Mr Ramos said he found Erika on a mound of seaweed, which apparently absorbed the shock of her fall from the plane, that had plunged 14,000ft.

Ambulance workers took her to Cartagena's University

Hospital, where doctors were treating her for a fractured arm and pelvis. Luis Oviedo, one of the medical team, said that she was in deep shock, but out of danger.

Witnesses said she constantly asked about the fate of her parents and young brother who were on board the doomed plane. Alvaro Rueda, the Civil Aviation Authority director, said: "This really has to be considered a miracle because of the impact of the shockwaves which the plane created at the moment of the crash."

All of the dead are thought to be Colombians.



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To blurt one out on the spur of the moment can be regarded as careless, but to do so with forethought is definitely a sin

How rude is the use of rude words?

TWENTY to ten on a Wednesday morning: there you are, washing up the breakfast, driving to work, tidying the workbench, dozing off after a night shift. On a nearby worktop, articulate people are talking about interesting, long-wave sort of things. Your mind wanders a bit, enjoying the Radio 4 pleasure of being intellectually stimulated without having to join in.

Suddenly your radio shouts a rude word at you. You prick your ears and think "What?". It does it again. You work out who is speaking: Hah! An actor. Former comedian. Oops, he's said it again. Oh dear.

The moment passes. According to temperament you either laugh cynically, sigh deeply, shrug — or reach for the Basilidon Bond. If you take this latter course, you are in a minority. I know this because the outbursts emanated from John Sessions, celebrating his 42nd birthday by lambasting one of his newspaper critics on *Midweek*, which I

present. So I suppose that if anyone should have sprung upon him and clamped a wastepaper basket over his head before he did it again, it was me. There will always be those who reproach a presenter for not delivering a "reprimand" in such cases: they will always be on the phone before you can say knife.

But they are not legion. Ignore all nonsense about "jammed switchboards". As I write, out of a million listeners the tally of protest is two letters and seven calls to the Duty Office (the BBC logs every phonecall, and circulates neatly typed quotations, to the general embarrassment: the Duty Office, in my view, is a marvel of democratic access. One single listener with a telling phrase, can ruin a producer's day).

As for the letters, one asked for

"assurance that we will not endure a repetition" (code for "put that man on the Oliver Reed list"). The other condemns the use of "terms usually confined to the locker room or four-ale bar unfrequented by ladies". Luckily for me that chap is too gentlemanly to suggest that this particular lady was derelict in her duty.

Others will think I was. Last time we had an F-word on the programme was in the mid-1980s: one letter informed me it was my "clear duty to deliver a sharp reproof and elicit an apology".

But poor Jeremy Irons: he only said it once, then looked appalled. It would have been cruel to comment. I am



LIBBY PURVES

relieved to say that Ian Gardhouse, senior producer of the live talk shows, takes a milder line. "It is difficult," he says mournfully. "Most presenters' instinct is to ignore it, as if someone broke wind at your dinner-table. Besides, telling them off might make them do it again".

Quite. The other problem is that you become utterly enwrapped in the job of trying to get people to reveal their nature and flourish uninhibitedly in the presence of the microphone. It is far more common for guests to be shy than obstreperous. I have to confess that I was so fascinated by John Sessions's anger, I will not have people sitting down and typing them out". He was in accord with

the most common criticism of bad language in the 1994 research, which was simply "there was no need for it".

Then, once a year or so, up pops an actor, bruised by some smart-alec columnist, who feels a personal need for it. And does it loud and clear. I rang the director of the Broadcasting Standards Council, Colin Shaw, to see what he really thinks about such moments. "Given that the incidence does not leap up," he said judiciously, "the message is, soldier on — but watch it. In the excitement of the moment, inappropriate language will be used. Fine. But some people turn up deliberately to shock for publicity. For them a particular corner of hell should be reserved. It is — I felt comfortably British as he said this — a discourtesy".

Still, to be on the safe side, I am practising the best way to issue reprimands in the manner of a stern but kindly landlady in a four-ale bar. "Language, please, gentlemen! Have you no homes to go to?"

A lifetime on the side of the angels

As the British

Red Cross

celebrates 125

years, Julia

Llewellyn Smith

meets its

remarkable head

If you must fall off your moped in London, do it in Grosvenor Crescent, near Victoria Station, home of the headquarters of the Red Cross. The last biker to land in a heap there found his wounds being dressed by none other than the Countess of Limerick, the Chairman of the British Red Cross Society.

It was a typical act of a woman whose grand title belies a compassionate and practical personality. Lady Limerick (she is married to the sixth Earl) does not believe in keeping back from the action.

Her CV is the densest I have ever seen, crammed into two pages of tiny type. Lady Limerick has been chairman of the British Red Cross for ten years. This is a full-time post that keeps her in the office until 9pm. She fills what time remains with the vice-presidency of the International Federation of the Red Cross, the presidency of the Health Visitor's Association and the vice-chairmanship of the Foundation for the Study of



Infant Deaths. She is also on the board of numerous other worthy bodies.

Last year she made 12 visits to foreign branches of the Red Cross and visited another 12 in the United Kingdom. Now, sitting in her office, overlooking the rooftops of Belgravia, the Christmas cards are still on the mantelpiece and her lunchtime sandwich lies untouched at 4pm. "Life is pretty busy," she admits, with a timid, sideways glance.

It always has been. As a child, Lady Limerick, 59, and now a grandmother, lived in Egypt, Sudan, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Libya and Pakistan — following her father, Brigadier Maurice

Lush, who held several important posts, administering territories liberated by the Allies during the Second World War. The only time she stayed still was during the war itself, when the young Sylvia, her mother and siblings "got stuck in England", while her father remained abroad.

They were living in Surrey, where many private houses had been converted into convalescent homes, which Lady Limerick used to visit in Red Cross uniform. "I used to sing and tap-dance to amuse the troops, not that it can have amused them much." She has vivid memories of her six-year separation from her father, of doodlebugs cutting over head and bombs landing in the garden, all of which have heightened her understanding of the thousands of war victims she deals with today.

After the war, the family vowed never to be separated for so long again and in every holiday from boarding school, Lady Limerick would undertake epic journeys by flying boat and train to join her father.

She read politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford, found a job in the Foreign Office and would probably have stayed there, had she not married, in 1961, the mid-teen mountaineer, Patrick Limerick. "He was keen to go climbing in the Himalayas



The Countess of Limerick: her shy charm conceals a steely determination. Left, pictured with her brother, Julian Lush, dressing up to entertain the troops

and said I could come if I made myself useful. So I trained with the Red Cross to be a medical officer to the expedition."

To accompany her husband, she had to quit her job. On return, however, the fifth Lady Limerick, who happened to be head of the British Red Cross, asked her daughter-in-law to work as a volunteer. It was an inevitable invitation: during the First World War, the fourth Lady Limerick had organised Red Cross soup kitchens at Victoria. "I always say that not only did I marry my husband but the Red Cross and mountains as well," she says, giggling.

For several years, Lady Limerick worked in the trading section, reuniting families divided by war. "It was detective work, all about using my nous," she says enthusiastically.

"I would go to neighbours, shops, police, trying to track down people. There were some very lucky findings. Once I knocked on the door of a basement in North Kensington and explained that I had a message for the woman who lived there and she fell on my shoulders and laughed and cried for ten minutes. Her sister had just been released from Siberia. It was 1967 and she hadn't heard from a single member of her family since 1933."

Much as she loved the job, her young family took precedence and between 1973 and 1985, Lady Limerick had a break from the Red Cross to chair the Symposium for the Study of Infant Deaths. "I got involved in a problem that was very real and we tackled it," she says proudly. "And I had a very human side supporting bereaved parents was a very large part of my work." She is

now chairing a group to investigate allegations in the *Cook Report* that cot deaths can be caused by antimony from mattresses.

In 1985, however, she was

'Not only did I marry my husband, but the Red Cross as well'

asked to stand as vice-chairman of the British Red Cross. "My youngest son was 18 and, more importantly, had just passed his driving test, so I felt I could take on a very responsible role."

Responsible is an understatement: within a year Lady

Limerick had been elected chairman and after five years she was re-elected for a second term, which culminates this year, with the society's 125th anniversary, appeal, to be launched tomorrow.

As well as raising money, the appeal's aim is to raise the profile of the British Red Cross, so often overshadowed by the international branch.

Lady Limerick, hardly knows where to begin as she puts on her half-moon spectacles and surveys the mounds of paper in front of her. She describes how, during the Gulf War, members were trained to give auxiliary nursing support and how they helped the Iraqis detained in Britain. And she recalls the work done to help victims' relatives and survivors of disasters such as Lockerbie and Piper Alpha.

In the community, there are schemes to look after single

people when they arrive home from hospital; beauty care for long-term patients and immediate help for the victims of fire and more and more work supporting the National Health Service in non-urgent situations.

She is a timid woman but as she rushes round the room, conscientiously checking her figures and grabbing the relevant pieces of paper, enthusiasm transforms her. "This article is about the Red Cross, not about me," she keeps saying. She is too modest to see that one is inextricable from the other.

● The 125th Birthday Appeal of the British Red Cross will be officially launched in London tomorrow. Donations can be sent to the appeal at Room 914, FREEPOST, London SW1X 7BR. Credit card donations: 071 245 1111.

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Why Tinseltown's real stars don't go for Oscars

They're already famous, coveted and mega-rich — so why should they bother, asks Giles Whittell, with Hollywood's biggest bauble?

It is flood season in Hollywood again, and sure enough the deluge has hardly stopped all week — gift-wrapped videos, embossed screening invitations and presentation copies of the year's most touted screenplays, pouring into the letterboxes of filmdom's most sought-after mailing list: the 5,000 or so members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who vote on the Oscars.

With ballot papers in the post and a month until nominations are announced, Tinseltown's trade papers are fat with \$7,000 full-page colour adverts headed "For Your Consideration", paid for by studios plugging good films and bad, stars in contention and no-hopers, all fodder for the annual barrage of wildly expensive, Oscar campaign hype.

Traditionally, the main reason Hollywood has worked itself up so obediently into its pre-Oscar lather is that winning a nomination, and especially an Award (the capital Os and As are mandatory: the words are registered trademarks), puts millions of extra bums on seats and earns a healthy bonus for everyone connected with the lucky winner.

But there is at least one megastar unlikely to be nominated on St Valentine's Day, and even less likely to care. Jim Carrey, leading goofball

in the current low-intensity box office hit *Dumb and Dumber*, made headlines last week when he was offered \$18 million for an unspecified film to be shot sometime in 1996.

It was the largest up-front payment ever offered an actor for a role in a comedy, and he turned it down. Why was this? Does he want to take advantage of his already considerable wealth (\$7 million for *Dumb and Dumber* plus at least as much in advances for the next Batman film, in which he plays the Riddler) to make sensitive, award-winning films?

Not exactly. It would be truer to say that he knows that producers will be queuing up to pay him \$18 million — when he is good and ready to decide between them.

America's reigning middleweight slapstick champion has joined the elite of male superstars already earning so much that an Oscar can make very little difference to their bottom lines. The bauble itself would look nice on their mantelpieces, but the relatively serious cinematic endeavour still required to win it would probably constitute an unwarranted and expensive distraction from the



Jim Carrey: not so dumb

business of heading up their own global cottage industries.

Carrey now finds himself in the company of Harrison Ford, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mel Gibson. Ford last year turned an indifferent script based on a samey and some-

what nerdy Tom Clancy drugs thriller into the \$121 million smash that was *Clear and Present Danger*. Schwarzenegger came back from the oblivion of *Last Action Hero* with a few good jokes and two Hawker Harriers in *True Lies*, which cost \$120 million to make but has so far earned \$146 million, in America alone. Gibson, with a little help from James Garner, heaved the underserving western *Maverick* over the crucial \$100 million barrier (to \$101.6 million).

The only male household names low-towing with old-fashioned reverence to the Academy this year are Tom Hanks and John Travolta. Hanks is on course for his second Best Actor Oscar in a row, this time for playing the title role in *Forrest Gump*. Travolta is making a comeback from voice-overs by niche-marketing himself as Quentin Tarantino's first choice when casting white trash hit-men — most recently in *Pulp Fiction*.

Forrest Gump and *Pulp Fiction* are also favourites for the Oscar for Best Film. But as *Daily Variety* has pointed out, neither film stands to

gain much from winning. Both are already runaway commercial hits. The Academy need not panic yet, however. It still has the women.

Relatively underpaid and perennially short of good roles, Hollywood's leading ladies still mind desperately about the Oscars, even if Jodie Foster, hot favourite for Best Actress for her role opposite Liam Neeson in *Nell*, is the only one honest enough to admit it. ("I don't like to think about it," she told one interviewer recently. "I hate being disappointed.")

Serious actresses who want to stay on top in Hollywood without taking their clothes off need the clout to choose their own scripts. Schwarzenegger earned it with brute force. Jim Carrey stumbled on it through his unique enthusiasm for making an idiot of himself on camera. But for women, as Foster has found since winning the Best Actress Award for *The Accused* in 1988 (she now has her own production company), nothing delivers that clout like an Oscar.

Hence the scramble last month for the rights to *A Long Fatal Love Chase*, Louisa May Alcott's recently-discovered 1866 bodice-ripper. Billed as a sequel to Alcott's *Little Women*, it should prove a stable Oscar-winning platform.

150

How Amis signed up the demon king

VALERIE GROVE

It is better
to
generate
malice
than be
unnoticed

"He has supported me through terrible times and never abandoned me," Glass told me. "Agents today have taken over the relationship that publishers used to have—like Maxwell Perkins and Scott Fitzgerald. I don't know if Andrew Wylie plays poker, but I bet he'd be good at it."

The benefit of being hissed at like the demon king is that even normal courtesy is greet-



The face of the Jackal: Andrew Wylie after a week of literary deal-mongering in London

This week's deal-mongering at Cape and at Penguin was prolonged. In an ideal world Amis would probably have been happiest to stay with Cape — an author should stay

answer." HawserCollins will now have to work on Amis to go on to the campaign trail, about which Amis usually applies the same rule: "I don't want any unsavory photographs that show no teeth. When *Money* came out, he did a conversation session at the ICA and gave his tetchy little spiel about journalists who, after a friendly interview, would "go home and kick you round their study." (Clive James once furnished us with the parody Martin Amis interview, starting with the interviewer approaching his door in trepidation, being shown into a study where the works of Shakespeare are left oh-so-casually open, and being relieved to discover that Amis is, after all, only two inches higher, barely visible over the typewriter keys.)

Did Martin Amis need something like this? Perhaps not. He took a A. Wilson. "I'm not interested in money. My wife does all that. I could not open a letter from an accountant. Just couldn't physically do it." Times change.

The mystery is the ditching of Pat Kavanagh. Some may shrug and say that, in middle age, men do ditch their wives, publishers and agents. But the relationship with Pat and with her husband, Julian Barnes, is a long one. Julian is one of his closest friends. Pat is god-mother to one of the Amis sons, and besides, had not Pat got him an offer of £460,000 from HarperCollins anyway before Christmas? Pat

New York. But when he arrived, she refused to see him. "She is the self-sufficient, post-modern phenomenon even her publicity goes public," he wrote.

So it doesn't matter, now whether the Information Republics its advance, which many think impossible. The tough bit will be that reviewers will ask not just whether it's good, but whether it was worth the money too. "It's like the Amis would say, 'It would be a bit much if it turned out to be good as well, wouldn't it? A bit too bloody much.'" Meanwhile Amis remains invisible except to his tennis and poker cohorts around W2; and the hype is well under way.

Markus Stenz: "This music can make you laugh"

A maestro with a mission

This rapid rise has given him a core of unshakeable self-confidence, bordering at times on the cocky. Conversation is peppered by statements such as (on his

Life as a German in London suits him well. "In fact, we get a sympathy-vote from people for having to put up with a bit of carping. But it's not so bad. I mean, Tottenham fans cheer Jürgen Klinsmann. So the prospects for Anglo-German relations can't be all bad, can they?"

● Markus Stenz conducts Paul Hindemith's *Kammermusik Nos 1-4* on Sunday in the Barbican at 5pm as part of the weekend festival of the composer's work.

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The time of Yeltsin is gone

The Chechen campaign will be his downfall, says Boris Pankin

For several years, Western experts, political scientists and statesmen have been debating about the proportion of democratic and hegemonic liberal and autocratic tendencies in the domestic and foreign policies of President Yeltsin's administration. Guesses were made whether this or that extremist step by the leadership was strategic or tactical. But such considerations have been of little concern to the Kremlin. And if more proof is needed that the ruling regime has neither concepts, strategy, nor logical tactics but only a determination to hold power at any price, no better proof can be found than the invasion of Chechnya.

It is said that Chechnya is an integral part of Russia and Russia has the right to use all means at its disposal to keep this tiny plot of land. The first part of the formula is beyond dispute. As for the second, one could observe that this right was there for three years after the proclamation of Chechen independence. Why was it not used before? Why is it used now, and so shamefully?

Developments in and around Chechnya are but a derivative of an appeal delivered to the autonomous republics in Soviet times when Yeltsin had to score points against Gorbachev: take as much sovereignty as you can swallow.

General Dzhokhar Dudayev took this exercise in rhetoric seriously. For some time, the Yeltsin team ignored this self-proclaimed independence. Only when the pressure from "patriots" of all colours became too intense was it decided to finish with Dudayev. Now Russian citizens, Chechens included, on both sides of the frontline, have to pay for the ambitions of the opposing leaders.

Initially, the West, too, neglected the problem. President Clinton's hasty statement that pacification of Chechnya was an internal affair for Russia was well publicised and struck a key note. This view was more or less repeated in London, Paris, Stockholm and Rome.

Only when the situation began to turn into a bloodbath were appeals made not to spill too much blood. But what does this mean? And who would dare say that blood spilt in a domestic conflict is different from that in a foreign clash? Is it thinner? Or colder?

Let us think logically. If today, 20 years after Moscow signed the Helsinki accord on human rights, missile and tank attacks against a state's own citizens are an internal affair of the Government, why should we confine our blame to Khrushchev, who in the period of denunciation of Stalinism, ruthlessly suppressed workers' protests in Novocherkassk? And why then were the bloody events in Tbilisi, Baku, and, for that matter, in Vilnius not regarded as an internal affair of the Gorbachev administration?

In Chechnya, hundreds and thousands of people, mainly civilians, had to be

killed, living quarters, orphanages and schools had to be bombed, cars with refugees had to be smashed by tanks and hundreds of thousands had to flee for safety before Western leaders agreed with what Sergei Kovalev, the former dissident, had been saying from the very beginning of the invasion: human rights violations, death, blood and destruction should not be considered an internal affair of the country in which the slaughter is taking place.

Nevertheless, it has not yet been noticed that the domestic and foreign policy of the present Russian leadership has the same style. One should look at the present confusion with the extension of Nato. This, too, originated in Boris Yeltsin's generous statement that Russia has no objections to Poland's joining the alliance. Yeltsin was then in Warsaw and was well disposed towards Lech Walesa. But as soon as the nationalists put pressure on the President, opposition to the extension of Nato started to become official Kremlin policy, enthusiastically conducted by Andrei Kozyrev, the "liberal".

Few people know that recent aggravations of the Bosnian conflict have also been provoked in large part by the Russian President. Eager to please his colleagues, he wrote to them on the eve of the Naples summit, where he wanted to be a full participant, must send a clear signal to the warring sides. If they cannot or do not want to come to an agreement, we will impose a settlement on them. Thus the take-it-or-leave-it map of the partition of Bosnia was drawn up and British and French Foreign Ministers delivered an ultimatum. Eventually, it was not the Serbs who were painted into a corner but the Contact Group which had to resume negotiations. And now the Russian foreign policy-makers who started the whole mess are again best friends of the Serbs, blocking one resolution after another in the UN Security Council.

Whatever the outcome of the outrage in Chechnya will be, it is a tragedy for Russia. The politicians in Russia and outside it must reach some unpleasant conclusions. At one time the communist regime in the Soviet Union would embrace any foreign dictator who would write on his banners the words "Socialism" or "Communism".

I believe that something similar has been happening in Western attitudes towards Yeltsin and his team. On the other hand, everyone who finds himself in opposition to Yeltsin is described as a "diehard" or "anti-reformer". There can be no doubt that the time of Yeltsin is gone. His Bolshevik, authoritarian reflexes proved stronger than newly acquired democratic aspirations. His destiny is fulfilled.

● The author was the last Soviet Foreign Minister and, until a few months ago, the Russian Ambassador to London.



INEXPERIENCED OPERATOR REMOVES APPENDIX (NEWS ITEM)

Where kings are loved

Why is the British Royal Family apparently more loved in Estonia than in its own country?

Bernard Levin

SINCE I wrote about my experiences in New Zealand, I have been inundated with letters and telephone calls, almost without exception agreeing with my enthusiasm for that country. Some letters came from New Zealand itself, of course, and others from New Zealanders living or working here (also Brits working there). I particularly cherish the visitors who went there holidaying, for they were the most enthusiastic.

But in such a pile there is always one to play Scrooge, so I therefore nominate Mr. L.W. Docker for the prize which his published letter won: it was couched in PC, filled with moaning about practically everything, from the man-helped beauty of the hills and forests to the things that were done to the Maoris a hundred years ago — even the disappearance of the moa bird. (I suppose he thinks I killed it.)

Bah! And not just bah! but phooey. I saw ravishing beauty, and met splendid people, and I shall forget neither.

Now then. Something jogged my memory, and I realised that the throne of Estonia, offered to Prince Edward (who gently refused it) is still empty. Since then, alas, the Estonians have had something else to think about; there were many Estonians among those who died in the cold of the Baltic when the ferry Estonia sank.

I do not think that anyone building a ship anywhere in the world will ever name it the Estonia; has anyone, over the years, even thought of the possibility of calling a new-made ship the Titanic the Second? But think for a moment about the very existence of Estonia. Is it not almost incredible that it should not, a dozen times at least, have simply slipped off the map for ever? I didn't know (well, I bet Prince Edward didn't know either) that it has existed since the first century AD. For many centuries it was a satrapy of more mighty forces, but finally, in 1920, it became independent. Were there rejoicings, was the whole country — not just the children — given a day's holiday? Assuredly, flags must have flown throughout the ancient but new-born country.

It did not last: 20 years after that happy day (nearly 20 centuries to make a country, 20 years to see it destroyed). Stalin bashed the table. Stalin's regular rule in these matters was applied: teachers, doctors, writ-

ers, clergymen, farmers, manufacturers — any people who could be thought of as leaders of the country — were rounded up for slaughter in the Gulag. Estonia was to be a land of Hebe and nothing more.

Estonia had to tread a via dolorosa even worse than Stalin's. For the Second World War was now raging, and Estonia was invaded and occupied by the Nazis; three years they suffered under the jackboot, only to suffer again under communism, from the end of the war until at last the Soviet grip was broken. Estonia was a democratic country again at last, and — well, I was about to say also civilised, but of course she was civilised long before the horrors began.

I said when I started that the story of Estonia and its putative throne was touching: looking back on the horrors Estonia has gone through, the calm with which it looked for a king is touching indeed. And if it isn't touching enough, surely the words in which the Estonian invitation were couched are enough to bring tears to any who contemplate them. Addressing Prince Edward, they said:

We would be most honoured if you would accept this rare request. Your background as an actor and television producer would be ideal to create the majesty a new king would require to combine ancient culture with modern political reality. Edward is perfect — young, royal, artistic and talented. We admire His Royal Highness Prince Edward enormously. We also admire Britain, its monarchy, democracy and culture.

And they added, for safety I presume, "Estonian newspapers are a lot nicer and more respectful to the British royal dynasty than the English media".

It was a fairy-tale, but a charming one. When thrones are rocking, few, surely, are seeking a new one: when was the last king or queen crowned, and where? Mind you, the Estonians are not giving in without a struggle: there is a party in the Estonian

Parliament calling itself the Royalists, and when last heard from they were doing rather well.

I am not going to put myself up for the throne of Estonia. I am a little over the hill for such enterprises, and my growing absent-mindedness might have me ordering the whole Cabinet to be executed (what a lark!). But these events make me think of the very idea of kingship and what has become of it over the centuries. It is, of course, immensely old: the word kingship was in the language by 1325, though experts cannot agree about how it came in. But how did the thing start, and why?

There must have been leaders and rulers (even if no such words existed) as soon as there were groups or tribes: the most powerful figure — presumably physically powerful — among them would be the "ruler". But how did the trappings grow? And even more strange, how did the ruler become a god, or at least a figure appointed, and protected by God, so that as late as the 17th century Charles the First could insist that he ruled by God? (That, of course, did not prevent him from having his head cut off.)

But kings have not just ruled, or not just ruled and had their heads cut off. Elizabeth at Tilbury did not need a crown for courtiers, come to think of it) to speak those marvellous words: "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England, too." Nor did Shakespeare need prompting with his marvellous words: "There's such divinity doth hedge a king, That treason can but peep to what it would." But when we start on Shakespeare it is difficult to stop. For instance:

A subconscious shines brightly as a king
Until a king be by, and then his state
Empties itself, as doth an inland brook
Into the main of waters.

But then, we have to take cognisance of swaggering Marlowe, when we get "Is it not passing brave

to be a King. And ride in triumph through Persepolis?" Marlowe's answer was obviously "Yes", but which of us would not feel the blood stir at such words? Nevertheless, "All kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall do him service". So there is, contrary to the beliefs of some monarchs, a greater power than the king.

But at some point I must (would that I could get out of it) start discussing the condition of our own royalty. And anyone who embarks on such a discussion instantly feels a great weariness.

Where did the seasaw begin to tilt over? It is no use saying (though of course it is true) that the rot began when members of the Royal Family forgot that they could do anything they wanted to, however shocking, provided that they heeded those memorable words of Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Previous royals had heeded that rule; they were, no worse or better than their successors, but their successors have been doing it in the streets, and they have frightened the horses good and proper.

Why did it happen? There is no one to point to, though many think there is, and if they were doing it (and I wouldn't put it past them) just for the hell of it, the history books will say that the decline and fall of the British monarchy was engineered by their own mistake in coming down off the pedestals and muzzling creatures such as "Peggy". Anyway, I do hope that by then I shall be dead and buried.

Go back to the touching story of the Estonians and their king. We smile, of course, but it is a smile of welcome, of pleasure, of dignity and decency. Prince Edward declined the offer to mount the throne of Estonia, but he did so in a courteous and serious manner. What would you think if the message from the Baltic got garbled, and the Estonians found themselves inviting Fergie to be their monarch?

Another such thought and I shall have nightmares. Some would say that the beginning of the collapse of monarchy was signalled when the Swedish Royal Family started going about on bicycles. Hardly; but is the very idea of kingship going to die? Some say, of course, that the time has come when the world for most of kings and queens and are manifestly no worse off for it. But for those nations which did have monarchs, I think they gained something, and now it seems that it is to be lost — and, of course, once lost, lost for ever. A pity.

Philip Howard



■ So let's hear three barks for bitches. They don't bite — I know, I live with at least two of them

Mothers of sons named Newt should be cautious with their animal metaphors. From Augustus Fink-Nottle, who kept news under his bed in order to study their mating habits, to Ken Livingstone, new-fangled have attracted ridicule rather than admiration for their love of slimy darters and tongue-flickers.

When Mrs Kathleen Gingrich whispered in front of television viewers that her son, Newt, called Hillary Clinton a bitch, her interviewer broke a taboo as well as entrapping an old lady unaccustomed to the media. Surprisingly, bitch remains one of the most potent insults in our world where far coarser words have passed into family language.

The connotations of the word vary with the sex of the speaker. When a man calls a woman a bitch, he may mean that she is cleverer than he is (for example, Hillary Clinton), or/and that though sexually attractive she does not appear to fancy him. A woman calling another woman a bitch is more likely to be referring to spitefulness, lack of sisterly generosity, and what is described (in an antithetical animal slur) as cattiness.

This is unfair to bitches. Since the beginning of literature the female dog has been an example to humans for faithfulness, perseverance and our natural tendency to turn round three times before lying down. Effigies on medieval stone slabs represent the man lying with a lion at his feet in order to suggest his bravery and his wife with a little dog at her feet to indicate bitch-like fidelity.

The worsening of bitch into an insult came with the Puritan revolution and its horror of sex. It is concentrated in English-speaking countries. In the way of the word, bitch became an insult, while the male of the species became a shaggy compliment, as in "you guy dog".

Helen of Troy did indeed describe herself as "bitch-eyed" for Homer, suggesting the shameful way she had left home after a strange male like a bitch on heat. And early translators could turn it into English as "you bitch" with none of its later shocking connotations. In King Lear, which is thick with unfavourable comparisons of man to other animals, Shakespeare thinks of dogs, snakes, not vicious sex maniacs. Three times he describes the way they respect the powerful and self-assured but bark at beggars. (Even news makes their entrance into Lear, when, in order to give credibility to his act as Poor Tom, Edgar announces his emergency menu as the wall newt and the water newt.)

By the time Captain Grose was collecting his dictionary of the vulgar tongue, he recorded that bitch was "the most offensive name that can be given to an English woman". Grose quoted a regular Billingsgate answer: "I may be a whore, but can't be a bitch".

But sonofabitch is American. Alexander Hamilton travelling in New Jersey recorded as a slang curiosity the repeated use of "son-of-a-bitch" by a landlord to his slaves. William James, Henry's brother, coined the notion of the Bitch Goddess, Success, and it was picked up by D.H. Lawrence in Lady Chatterley's Lover.

So let's hear three barks for bitches. I live with at least two of them. Heather the grandmother Jack Russell, and Poppy her granddaughter. On busy days Haggis, the daughter, Daisy, the aunt, and Snipe, the Ayrshire cousin, accompany me around Kensington Gardens before dawn. Bitches are nicer than dogs. They yap less, do not bite (at least not while they are barking) and run away less often. They are affectionate natures. After cat, they are the best creatures to live with.

By an unfortunate accident, the bitch became an insult among Anglo-Saxons. But there are now welcome signs that she is improving her reputation. In the forthcoming Cambridge International Dictionary of English (Cambridge's first venture into Oxford's field), the core meaning of bitch as verb is given as "to complain". And some of the examples of bitch as insult are playful: "You bitch — you knew I wanted to keep it secret!" These examples, gathered by computer from vast databases, record the way we speak today rather than the old-fashioned way the Speaker of the House learnt to speak at college.

Cash crop?

KILTS are in a twist in rural Scotland over an application from one of the richest landowners in Britain for a large government grant to plant trees on his estate. The Duke of Atholl, who commands Britain's only private army from his 120-room castle in Perthshire, is looking for a subsidy of £400,000 to plant native pine, larch and spruce trees on his 135,000-acre estate.

The duke's application has re-

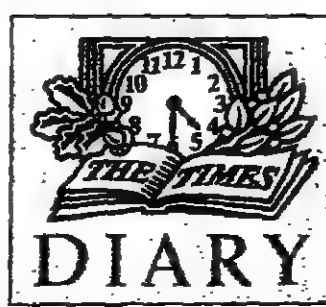
SUCH AMAZING CREATIVITY. HOW ON EARTH DID HE COME UP WITH THAT NAME?



ceived backing from Tayside Regional Council and will now be considered by the Forestry Commission. The area of land at Glen Bruar, near the beauty spot of the Falls of Bruar, was once glorious forest but was felled as part of the war effort.

The application has infuriated politicians. "I sometimes wonder if landed aristocracy have no sense of shame about the extent to which they seem to be willing to dig into the public purse," says SNP leader Alex Salmond. Labour's Shadow Agriculture Minister, Gavin Strang, is equally concerned: "Most people will see this as over the top. We should encourage farmers and landowners to grow trees but there should be a limit to the amount of taxpayers' money paid to wealthy individuals."

In 1992 the duke ran into trouble when he received a substantial sum to restore his 18th-century garden. A year later, he tried to stop ramblers using a 26-mile path which Perth and Kinross District Council later decreed was a public right of way. Neither he nor his army commanders were available for comment yesterday.



● Buzzing like a fly about one table yesterday in Christopher's, the Covent Garden restaurant, was the proprietor, Christopher Gilmour. His father, the Tory Lord Gilmour, arrived for lunch and was accorded special treatment: the best seat and a glass of bubbly on the house.

Doctored

SIR David Putnam, the movie director, was in nostalgic mood yesterday at a luncheon in London to celebrate the film and television industry's first National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). He personally has more doctorates than O levels. No fewer than five universities have awarded him honorary degrees in recognition of his contribution to the film industry. "I've

only got four O levels, you see," he says modestly.

Gotcha!

THE LEADER of the breakaway miners' union has had trouble hitting the target recently in his favourite pastime of game shooting. Neil Greatrex told coal industry leaders this week of his inability to hit anything. A new gun didn't work: he went to the optician, but there was nothing wrong with his eyes.

Following the Energy Minister's rejection of the UDM's joint bid for deep mines in England, however, Greatrex came up with a wizzard new idea: "When I next shot, I called the bird 'Tim Eggar' — and hit it first time."

Round Two

THE JUDGE so famously cuckolded by the snobbish diarist Alan Clark has returned to the fray. He has written a scorching letter to this week's Spectator which suggests that Clark has lost "his marbles".

Judge Harkness's vitriol was prompted originally by Clark's suggestion in his diaries that he had enjoyed the company of his



Judge James Harkness with his wife Valerie and daughter Joey

wife and his daughter. It has been rekindled by Clark's review in The Spectator of Ginny Dougary's book, The Executive Tart.

"I was at first confused... in thinking that The Executive Tart might refer to himself," writes Harkness. "Mr and Mrs Clark have a well-known propensity to denigrate women." Clark was unimpressed when I spoke to him yesterday. "I don't think I do want to hear it, thank you."

● One of the high-fliers of the young Tory generation has defected with Maurice Saatchi from the Conservative Party's advertising agency. Steve Hilton, 25, who played a key part in the victorious 1992 election campaign from Central Office and then joined the agency, is to join Maurice Saatchi's new outfit.

P.H.S



SCOTLAND IS DIFFERENT

Labour need not propose regional assemblies

Labour did little yesterday to show that the debate on Britain's constitution was safe in its hands. Gordon Brown's speech, on devolution, was well overshadowed by attacks from John Redwood and Ian Lang. The Opposition looked particularly weak on the question of income taxation, the levels of which the proposed Scottish Parliament could not only raise but reduce. On this point and many others, ministers are right to challenge their Labour counterparts.

The Conservative leadership seems to calculate that the unionist vote in Scotland exceeds the natural Conservative vote, and that therefore it is in its electoral interests to continue an unremitting assault on any change at all. Yet the High Tory defence of the status quo offered by ministers has its own clear limitations. There is a strong sense, no little fostered by the Prime Minister himself, that changes in British governance can be made. The Opposition is letting the Government off the hook by muddling its own priorities and message.

Labour's relationship with the principle of Scottish devolution has often been a nervous one. Its Royal Commission on the Constitution recommended a Scottish assembly in 1973 — five years after Edward Heath committed the Conservative Party to the same. But many in Labour's ranks continued to argue that devolution was — by definition — hostile to centralised socialism.

As Mr Brown made clear in his speech, today's new "socialists" have a far stronger commitment to decentralisation and to the reinforcement of local identity. Yet many in the party continue to pose Tam Dalyell's "West Lothian" question: why should a Scottish MP at Westminster be denied the chance to vote on certain issues affecting his own constituency, while his English colleagues continue to address the full range of policy questions?

The Shadow Chancellor's answer was that of the constitutional rationalist who believes that policy dilemmas are resolved

by blueprint. The West Lothian question is no barrier to change, he said, "because a Scottish Parliament and an assembly for Wales go hand in hand with the offer of greater regional democracy throughout Britain".

The transference of certain powers from Scottish MPs to the new Scottish assembly, in other words, will be matched in other parts of Britain by a similar transference from Westminster. To say, a Yorkshire senate or an Avon parliament. The West Lothian question would be answered by the prospect of uniform arrangements for the whole of the nation, as different regions opted for the new form of representation.

There are two obvious objections to Mr Brown's approach. The first is that his vision of regional assemblies is unrealistic. To say that these new bodies would "not take power from local communities", for instance, is to underestimate the self-aggrandising instincts of new representative bodies. The assemblies would almost certainly strip town halls of some of their responsibilities. They would also generate their own forms of bureaucracy, in spite of Mr Brown's assurances. If Labour intends to persist with this reform, it must do so with open eyes.

Secondly, the plan for regional assemblies is misconceived because it is unnecessary. A Scottish Parliament would indeed be an anomaly — but only because Scotland is a special case requiring anomalous solutions. That much is implicit in the existence of Scottish law, the Scottish Office and the Church of Scotland.

There are serious arguments against a tax-raising (or tax-reducing) parliament for Scotland: there are even greater arguments arising from how England would react. But appropriateness in successful constitutional reform is more important than rationalism or strict notions of parity between regions. One simple point which Labour must grasp is that if Scotland probably does want devolution England probably does not.

NOTRE NEIL

Kinnock's task in Brussels

Slipping effortlessly into the ways and language of Brussels, Neil Kinnock has made an impressive start as the European Union's new Commissioner for Transport. At his confirmation hearings he laid out a sensible programme of work appropriate to a Union stretching from Lapland to Capri. More importantly, he brought the professionalism of the Westminster politician to the artificial contrivance of formal examination by MEPs.

He flattered their self-importance, quoted their reports and studies and professed his readiness to be guided. His repartee, admittedly, did not survive translation into a Babel of languages. But he covered everything with a mellifluous *communautaire* gloss aimed as much at new colleagues in the Santer Commission as former colleagues in the Labour Party. Mr Kinnock, at least, knows the value of well-chosen words.

His summary of his priorities for EU action is of greater significance. And here Mr Kinnock's words were a useful pointer. Transport is one of the few jobs in Brussels with a clearly defined remit and where Union-wide policymaking is not only legitimate but essential.

The liberalisation of air transport could not have happened without firm directives to force protectionist southern countries with bankrupt state airlines to open their skies. The new rules are now in place; but now they must be enforced.

France, Spain and Greece are still balking at full commercial competition in aviation. France has attempted to keep foreign airlines out of Orly; Air France and Iberia are demanding massive government aid to rescue them from commercial disaster. Mr Kinnock has already indicated that he will

take a tough line in refusing any such special treatment, and appears ready with Karel Van Miert, his competition colleague, to keep up the pressure — a surprising and encouraging stance by two socialist Commissioners.

Another issue highlighted by Mr Kinnock where the public certainly expects prompt action is ferry safety. The lessons of the Estonia have still not been fully understood by some operators, whose precarious commercial future reinforces complacency. Safety, as Mr Kinnock insisted, must be the paramount consideration. His promise of specific proposals for action during 1996 is welcome.

Inevitably he will also be drawn into the row over the transport of live animals; and here Mr Kinnock must demonstrate tact as well as principle. Encouraging trans-European rail networks is also a good use of the commissioner's time — though only governments themselves can take the necessary steps to co-ordinate and upgrade their railways.

More than any specific policies, European transport will be improved only by an approach that goes with the market rather than with notions of dirigisme. Mr Kinnock was refreshingly silent on visionary ideology or regulatory intervention. Leaving his country with one of John Major's policies in his pocket, he put forward a "Citizen's Network".

Encouraging this kind of consumer-based initiative, rather than attempting to regulate transport from Brussels, is how Europe's road, rail, air and waterway systems may be co-ordinated in a single transport market. The new Commissioner is already travelling in the right direction.

FOR SHE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW

If you can't join 'em, beat 'em

Had Groucho Marx been a woman, it is unlikely that he would have had opportunity to quip about not wanting to join any club that would have him as a member. David Butler, veteran Nuffield don and psephologist — increasingly better-known as the husband of the Rector of Exeter College, Oxford — has now changed the predicament into a higher gear: he does not want to be a member of a club that would have him as a member but not his wife.

In an open letter to the chairman of the United Oxford and Cambridge Universities Club, which was published in *The Times* on Wednesday, Dr Butler wrote that "in 1995 it no longer seems civilised to remain a member of an institution in which the responsible general committee seems determined to retain every existing barrier to the treatment of women". The Oxford and Cambridge excludes women from full membership, as it has done consistently since its foundation in 1817.

Women are instead offered associate membership, a stingy form of consecration which does not even secure for them access to the club's library. In spite of growing pressure to extend to women the same membership rights that are available to men, the committee remains determined that there should be no ostracism in the library — perhaps it is bad for the books? It is this blimpish position to which Dr Butler

objects, and which has compelled him to send in his firm letter of resignation.

Dr Butler is right, and has performed a public service by putting such distance between himself and the club. If there is any club in this country which must extend full membership to women, it is the Oxford and Cambridge. More than 40 per cent of matriculating undergraduates are women; the number of female dons in both places, while still unacceptably low, grows apace. It is wrong — and "silly", as Dr Butler says — that women who research in the Bodleian and the Cambridge University Library cannot, as it were, set foot in the library of the Oxford and Cambridge.

There are signs that other dons will soon resign as well, and this newspaper would applaud them if they were to do so. Both the Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of the two universities should waste no time in writing to the chairman of the Oxford and Cambridge to express their displeasure with the rules of the club: after all, it does bear the names of the two universities. Yet while it may be difficult for the universities to insist, as a matter of law, that the club change its rules, there is no question that a public scolding would bring upon the club a serious humiliation. In the meantime, to those members who have read this leading article, our message is a simple one. Vote with your feet.

Steps to a Tory accord on Europe

From Mr Robert Walter

Sir, The key phrase in the Prime Minister's *Frost* on Sunday interview (report, January 9) was "I will not accept constitutional change which impacts on the British Parliament".

To Euro-sceptics this will be interpreted as "thus far and no further"; those of us who take a more positive view of Britain's European role will regard it as "no turning back". Either way, if Britain is to play a constructive role at the 1996 inter-governmental conference (IGC) we must address what I regard as a crucial issue: the lack of democratic accountability of our common institutions.

I believe that there is a direct relationship between this democratic failure and the growing popular disillusionment with the powers of the European institutions. The British people have elected representatives at Westminster and Strasbourg. Both parliaments have a *mandate* from the people; but neither has the constitutional authority to check the powers of the European Council and the European Commission.

Unless the IGC confronts this issue, it will fill the people of Europe. Maastricht made small steps in this direction; but the enactment of European legislation and the implementation of those policies by a secretive cabal of ministers, national civil servants and European commissioners can no longer be tolerated.

A bold IGC will enhance the ability of both the national and the European parliaments to represent their electorates.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WALTER (Chairman),
Conservative Group for Europe,
110 Grosvenor Road, SW1,
January 9.

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative)

Sir, I welcome the Prime Minister's assertion that a referendum on key European issues is both unlikely and unnecessary as a wise attempt to steady frayed nerves. It is far too easy to view the referendum notion as an easy way, relatively, to secure peace and unity — and not just in the Conservative Party.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The 1975 Labour referendum (albeit of the EC) seemed at first like a unifying solution but later it led to a further split in the party, and the rise of the SDP, which kept Labour out of office for years. Glib talk among the Tories of similar "solutions" now holds the same menace for them, too.

The fanatical anti-Europe handful of MPs in both main parties never accept any pro-EC referendum result. They just carry on regardless with their ditty out-of-date campaigns, designed to scare the people.

I remain, yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES (Chairman),
European Movement, UK,
1 Parliament Street, Whitehall, SW1,
January 9.

Benefits from taxation

From Lord Boardman

Sir, Your third leader, "Happy May 29" (January 3), refers to the number of days it takes the average worker to earn the tax that he has to pay. It is a disturbing figure but it would be more constructive if it were translated into the days' work needed for each major item of public expenditure that such taxes have to cover.

If it were, for example, that it needed X days' work for social services, Y days for defence, Z days for unarmoured mothers and so on, there might be a greater understanding of public expenditure and more concern about those areas which do not appear to justify the "extra work for the Revenue".

Instead of a public outcry about "cuts" there could be public applause for many of these.

Yours faithfully,
BOARDMAN,
House of Lords,
January 3.

From Dr Tim Erasmus

Sir, I take it that your leading article on the number of (hypothetical) days we Britons work for the Inland Revenue before we can keep our income was written tongue-in-cheek. But there is a serious point.

The article claims that taxation is money "consecrated by politicians". Well, hardly. Without taxation our society would slip further into decay; without taxation there would be no hospitals, schools, roads, sewers and so on.

Thank goodness politicians (in the past) had the courage to increase taxation in order to create institutions and services that most recognise as marks of civilisation. In fact it would do the Government no harm if it were to publicise the benefits that arise from taxation. Give the Inland Revenue a positive image — why not?

Where your leader extols "tax freedom", I tend to believe that taxation and government expenditure deliver us from the dark ages.

Yours,
TIM ERASMUS,
Esnor Cottage,
South Street, Caerwys, Clwyd.

Business letters, page 25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 6NN Telephone 071-782 5000

Outrage over the export of calves

From Mr Philip Manasseh

Sir, The letter which you published on January 10 from the Director of the Hannah Research Institute suggests that a solution to the veal calf export problem may soon be possible that is to breed cows which will produce milk continually without the need to calve annually.

I find this quite disturbing. We already expect enough from these goddamned servants of ours. For instance, there was a recent move to add to their burden by means of hormone treatment — something farmers objected to in the main.

No, the answer lies at home — unless the Europeans are persuaded that our methods are preferable. The RSPCA has recently instigated the "Freedom Foods" campaign, promoting a farming management system based on their perception of animal needs. They now have an opportunity to demonstrate their philosophy by funding calf-rearing units and promoting British veal humanely produced. There will never be a better opportunity for them than in the present climate.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP MANASSEH
(Oxfordshire Agricultural Education Adviser, 1989-91),
Corner Cottage, Combe, Oxfordshire,
January 11.

From Mr J. A. Davis

Sir, If MPs wish to do something practical to alleviate the lot of exported live animals, and not simply to indulge in ineffectual populism, they should take the opportunity to extend the jurisdiction of our criminal courts to cover offences committed abroad by UK subjects. This would at least improve the lot of sheep transported to slaughterhouses in Italy and Spain through countries where EC law relating to animal welfare seems to be largely unenforced.

It would admittedly do nothing for calves destined to be reared in barbaric conditions in Holland; but, so long as we remain in the Community, it does not lie within the power of the Mother of Parliaments to do this.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAVIS,
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey.

From Mr Graham Platt

Sir, Regulations regarding the transport of live animals are certainly not respected in France. Last year I appeared for an Irish livestock exporter in the Calais Tribunal d'Instance. He was sued for freight charges, which he

Israel's settlements

From Lord Hytton

Sir, Your editorial of January 3, "On disputed land", correctly pointed out that new and expanded settlements breach the spirit of the 1993 Declaration of Principles (the Oslo Agreements), and that Mr Rabin's latest compromise concerning El-Khader/Elrei does not address the heart of the dispute.

It is necessary to go further and state that all settlements in territories occupied from 1967 violate the 4th Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a party. They constitute illegal acts in international law.

UN Security Council resolution 242 asserted the necessity of giving up occupied land in return for peace. The Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian citizens of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem have recognised the lawful existence of Israel. They have delivered an end to terrorism and to the intifada, in so far as it is in their power.

It is now time for Israel to start

removing its settlements, beginning with the most provocative ones, for example in Gaza and Hebron. If this can be done promptly and with good grace, the chances of negotiating for some settlements to remain permanently may be quite good. To say that nothing can change before negotiations in 1996 is only too likely to bedevil the situation, giving encouragement to extremists on both sides.

Those who recall the Camp David Agreements will remember that these required the removal of Israeli settlements from Sinai (where they hardly threatened anybody). This was intensely unpopular with some in Israel; nevertheless the Government of the day honoured its obligations.

I trust this precedent will be followed once again. Such a course would be supported by many friends of Israel, who can see the highly constructive part which that country can come to play throughout the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,
HYTTON,
House of Lords,
January 4.

by Roberts as a precursor of that style, which flourished in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

This papyrus is no more "mysterious" than the rest of the known 98 papyri of the New Testament. Study shows that its text is of a kind long known to have been used in early centuries. Dr Thiede's theory, even if correct, does no more than indicate earlier attestation of a text-type of which we have other more extensive knowledge.

Yours faithfully,
J. NEVILLE BIRDSALL
(Professor of New Testament Studies and Textual Criticism, University of Birmingham, 1983-96),
75 Stanhope Road South,
Darlington, Co Durham.

From Mr Maurice S. Thompson

Sir, Although carbon dating "could" only indicate the age of the ... papyrus, not when the text was written" (interview with Dr Thiede, December 26), presumably such a test will be made. If the papyrus dates from the late 2nd century AD the text will clearly not be earlier. If however it can be shown to date from the first half of the 1st century it would seem strange had it lain unused for 100 years or more, and the case for the earlier date would be strengthened.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE S. THOMPSON,
26 Home Close, Sharnbrook, Bedford.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Looking back on the Attlee legacy

From Mr Alec L. Parrott

Sir, Your leading article, "From Attlee to Blair" (January 3), is not entirely fair to Churchill's coalition Government and to the Beveridge report.

The framework of the great programme of post-war social reform which you describe as the crowning glory of the Attlee Government was, of course, set out in that report. It was agreed in principle by the wartime Cabinet, and announced to the British people in one of Churchill's memorable broadcasts on March 21, 1943.

The National Health Service was promised, as was educational reform and much else besides, but there was no mention of a cradle-to-grave welfare state. What the coalition Government actually favoured, as did Beveridge, was "national compulsory insurance for all classes for all purposes from the cradle to the grave", as Churchill put it.

Many historians have fallen into the same trap. On December 1, 1982, on the 40th anniversary of publication of the Beveridge report, you said, in a leader headed "Wanted: a new Beveridge": "The Attlee and successor governments rushed to pay benefits before they had been earned."

You were right then. That is where things went wrong for the Labour Government after the war, and that is where either Mr Blair — or Mr Major — could start to put things right now.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC L. PARROTT,
Albion Cottage,
3 Grays Lane, Ashstead, Surrey,
January 3.

From Sir Kenneth Lewis

Sir, Those of us who fought the 1945 election will never forget the excitement of a first political poll for ten years. The whole country felt the same about it and provided candidates with packed meetings and good-humoured heckling. Under Winston Churchill's leadership we were sure to win; but, we didn't.

Fifty years later, will it happen again? The present Government has a problem similar to that of the end of the 1945-51 Labour Government. It has completed a denationalisation proposal: some of its most senior ministers are out, or going out, or worn out. There is an accident-proneness which comes with an administration which is getting on a bit.

So what to do? All is not lost. Damage limitation at the next general election must be the order of the day. Try to win, certainly, but get organised to prevent the worst.

The 1945-51 Labour Governments were long on legislation and short on time to digest it. The present Government has been short on legislation but long on the controversy surrounding it. The whole party in Westminster had better cut down on internal controversy or face another defeat, as we did in 1945.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEWIS,
Rutland,
Preston, Oakham, Rutland.

Children in distress

From Prebendary Dr Chad Varah

Sir, Fewer than 4 per cent of the 10,000 calls received daily by Childline (report, January 7) get answered. The Samaritans warned at the outset that this would be the case, and begged the organisers to add to their publicity: "If all lines engaged, ring the Samaritans". This was refused.

We have been aware since 1953 that nothing is more depressing for a suicidal person than to be offered help and then experience repeated frustration. We have been taking calls from children, in strictest confidence, for 41 years, and are starting a single number to ring if the local branch lines are repeatedly engaged, after trying it out in Scotland. Surely the Childline answer-phones should mention it.

Yours faithfully,
CHAD VARAH (Rector),
St Stephen Wallbrook, EC4.

Salami tactics

From Mr Stevenson Pugh

Sir, The display of sausages from all over Europe on my local Tesco delicatessen counter tempted me to order an assortment of two slices of each of six kinds for my wife and me for lunch. Alas, I was thwarted by a regulation, which the assistant explained apologetically came not from her management but Brussels, forbidding serving less than 1½ ounces of any one kind.

For *assiette anglaise* read *bâtisse bruxelloise*!

Yours etc,
STEVENSON PUGH,
44 Mount Pleasant,
Bishops Cleeve, Devon.

A sour taste

From Ms J. E. Meadows

Sir, I think I can match Mr Hustler's restaurant horror story (letter, January 11). My lunch companion in a hotel restaurant in a West Sussex town my lunch companion was told that his order for local fish pie could not be met "because the chef has run out of frozen pastry".

Yours faithfully,
J. E. MEADOWS,
14 Kingswood Drive, SE19.

OBITUARIES

PHILIP NEWMAN

Philip Newman, CBE, DSO, MC, orthopaedic surgeon, died on December 31 aged 83. He was born on June 22, 1911.

AFTER heroic service with the RAMC at Dunkirk and then as a prisoner of war, Philip Newman gained widespread recognition as a specialist in orthopaedic disorders of the spine and hip joint.

In the final days of the evacuation from Dunkirk he was one of three doctors and 30 other ranks, selected by lottery, to stay with those wounded who could not be evacuated.

Awarded the DSO for his services at this time, he was then a prisoner of war for nearly two years. After one unsuccessful attempt to escape from Germany, he later managed to make an astonishing escape from a POW camp in Rouen, travelling south through France and Spain to Gibraltar, and then home in May 1942.

Even before this he had been active in promoting the escape of fellow prisoners and was awarded the MC on his return to the United Kingdom. He later became officer-in-charge of a surgical division with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

On demobilisation in 1945 he became an orthopaedic surgeon in the Emergency Medical Service and was shortly afterwards appointed to the consultant staff of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital and King Edward VII Hospital for Officers in London.

The elder son of John Barker Newman, a civil servant, Philip Barker Newman was educated at Croydon preparatory and senior schools. He then entered the Medical School of Middlesex Hospital, where he was a second year exhibitioner and senior Brodrip scholar, before qualifying MRCS(Eng), LRCP(Lond) in 1934. After service in hospital resident appointments and as an anatomy demonstrator, he became FRCS in 1938 and then orthopaedic and fracture registrar at the Middlesex Hospital.

After a few weeks with the Emergency Medical Service on the outbreak of the Second World War, through hav-



ing been on the supplementary reserve of officers, he was called up as a surgical specialist in the RAMC with the rank of major. In February 1940 he was posted to France with No 12 Casualty Clearing Station which, at the time of the evacuation from Dunkirk, became the last functioning medical unit with the British Expeditionary Force.

During the war he had published

papers on the prisoner-of-war mentality and the early treatment of wounds of the knee. After the war his main interest was in orthopaedic disorders of the spine and hip joint which were the subjects of a number of his publications.

He had a high reputation as a thoroughly reliable surgeon of sound judgment and was a recognised teacher of orthopaedics in the University of

London at Middlesex Hospital Medical School, and at the Institute of Orthopaedics, where he was director of the Dawn Trust unit of spinal research. He was Hunterian professor at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1954 when he lectured on Spontaneous Osteogenesis. At the Section of Orthopaedics of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1968 his presidential address was entitled *The Spine, the Wood and the Trees*, and several of his other papers were concerned with disorders of the vertebral column. He served as chairman of the medical board of St John Ambulance and was also chairman of the Council and of the editorial board of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

He visited South Africa as the Jeanes Rouché lecturer of the College of Medicine there in 1975. At the point of retirement from his hospital posts in 1976 he was elected president of the British Orthopaedic Association and was appointed CBE. He continued in private consulting practice for a few years before retiring to Aldershot.

Newman was a modest, rugged, strikingly handsome and likeable man who enjoyed great popularity with both senior and junior colleagues as well as with undergraduate and post-graduate students. A tower of strength in his prisoner-of-war camps, and an inspiration to his fellows there, he continued afterwards to inspire immense confidence in his patients.

He was a keen yachtsman and golfer and, after retirement, he derived much pleasure from the second of these hobbies.

He also then had time to fulfil a promise, made 40 years before, to write his account of the events related to the Dunkirk evacuation and his spell as a prisoner of war. His *Safer than a Known Way*, published in 1983, is a vivid and moving story of that period, demonstrating his own considerable stamina and determination; but, above all, the unquenchable fortitude of the men and women of the French Resistance who made possible his escape.

He married Elizabeth Anne Bassett, a nurse, in 1943. She survives him together with their two sons and daughter.

ELAINE GREENE

Elaine Greene, literary agent, died on January 10 aged 74. She was born in New York on November 27, 1920.

THROUGHOUT the 1960s and 1970s Elaine Greene's literary agency provided an intellectual and emotional home for many writers. She was especially good at taking younger writers under her wing and encouraging them in every way with large quantities of good wine and not such good food in her house in Holland Park, along with innumerable cigarettes and endless stories.

Her clients included P.D. James, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Michael Frayn, Jonathan Miller, Sybil Bedford, Colin Forbes, Alan Schofield, Helen Craig, William Shawcross, John Burningham, Helen Oxbury, and in the United States Dr Seuss, Helen MacInnes, Charlton Heston and Arthur Miller.

Elaine Ruth Gilbert was educated at Woodmere Academy and then Mount Holyoke College. At the age of 24 she married the gifted journalist Robert Shaplen, who was considered the dean of foreign correspondents in the Far East during the Second World War.

She worked in the editorial departments of both Random House and Knopf and in the early 1950s lived in the Far East with Shaplen. While in Saigon she met Graham Greene, to whom she took an immediate liking. He asked her to look up his brother Hugh, who was then on loan from the BBC and working in Kuala Lumpur in the psychological warfare intelligence unit. She did so and fell in love with him. She obtained a



divorce from Shaplen, and afterwards, never expressed any regret.

She married Hugh Greene as his second wife in 1951 and they came to London. In the mid-1950s she launched herself on her career as an agent by becoming the director of MCA London. But in the early 1960s MCA was forced by an anti-trust action to divest itself of its agency division. The firm of Elaine Greene was immediately formed, which later became Greene & Heaton.

In 1960 Hugh Greene was appointed Director-General of the BBC and was knighted four years later. Elaine mocked the title Lady Greene but occasionally used it — especially for booking tables in restaurants — even after her divorce from Greene in 1968. (He married twice again before his death in 1987.)

Elaine Greene was brilliant at her business. She had a biting wit and cheerfully refused to put up with the more boring aspects of life — espe-

cially writers she considered to be boring. But she was intensely loyal to her friends.

Her politics were always radical and she did not suffer those she considered fools gladly — or at all. People she did not like were "boring", or "bloody boring" or "ghastly". Those whom she did like just knew that she was their friend. No epithets were needed. She proved it constantly.

Last year she was diagnosed as suffering from lung and brain cancer. She bore the increasingly debilitating effects of the illness with her usual impatient good humour. Even after she was moved into a hospice, and her mind was beginning to wander, she sent out one of her authors to get her a bottle of vodka and laughed uproariously when he told her that the pub where he had bought it around the corner featured a spectacular stripper. She found the prospect of dying, she said, "a bloody bore".

She leaves her two sons.

ANDREW LEES

Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth since 1990, died from a suspected heart attack on December 31 aged 45. He was born on June 8, 1949.

THE sudden death of Andrew Lees in the dense forests of south Madagascar deprived the environmental movement of one of its most indefatigable campaigners. Lees, chief-whistle-blower investigating a mining scheme. He had spent the past twenty years, largely as the campaigns director of Friends of the Earth (FOE), challenging those authorities who were content to pollute or otherwise destroy the glories of the wild. Like Abba, he was driven by an almost monomaniacal passion: government and industry were his white whales.

A measure of the loss, and of the man, is that the news of his death brought tributes from associates and opponents alike. He was a profoundly honourable person, and liked nothing better than exposing official wrongdoing.

Andrew John Lees was brought up in Norfolk, educated in St George's, a co-educational boarding school in Harpenden, and at the University of Wales in Cardiff,

where he read botany and zoology.

His first triumph as a conservationist came in 1981. That year, the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), for whom he had worked as a contract field scientist in the late 1970s, allowed a local authority to tip waste over the wonderful wetland of Crymlyn Bog, near Swansea. Lees was incensed, and the NCC's bureaucrats hardly knew what had hit them when Lees roared up to their Belgrave headquarters in a taxi, burst through the door and slammed down a writ challenging the decision. The NCC caved in, the dumping stopped and, 12 years later, in 1993, Crymlyn's international significance was recognised under the Ramsar Convention.

That was the first of many such campaigns. From Swansea, Lees moved back to Norfolk and the Broads. His passion for nature had begun there, on childhood sailing trips through the wetlands, and in later years, on rare weekends off work, he returned there with friends.

Between 1982 and 1984 Lees led the Broadlands group of FOE in the battle to protect Halvergate Marshes from



being ruined by drainage schemes to grow surplus crops with common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidies. His concern was as much to protect the marsh farmers, whose traditional grazing methods made the wildlife special, as the landscape itself.

The sight of draining diggers stopped in their tracks, surrounded by placard-carrying protesters from the local

villages, FOE activists and Lees animatedly briefing journalists, became a familiar image in the press. In conjunction with political lobbying, his tactics worked. The political tide began to turn against CAP-subsidised destruction of the countryside, and this led, in 1986, to the marshlands being designated the UK's first Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Although Lees was one of the first to organise peaceful direct action in defence of wildlife, he made his mark in other ways in which his scientific background no doubt helped. He was a meticulous researcher, happily burning the midnight oil to uncover damning evidence buried deep in official papers. Obsessed by detail, he understood that facts, not scaremongering fancy, make the most compelling case, and he had a filing system that would have put Jorge Luis Borges's librarian to shame.

He also knew a good story when he saw one. He loved to read about some hapless minister or civil servant harpessed by a Lees exposé. Not surprisingly, many of his closest friends were environmental journalists.

In 1986 Lees joined FOE in

London — a long-held ambition — to work on countryside, pollution and toxics issues. Here he pioneered the use of the then little known formal complaints procedure of the European Commission to ensure that successive environment ministers acted to clean up Britain's filthy bathing beaches and drinking water supplies contaminated by pesticides.

In 1988 Lees and a FOE colleague went to Nigeria to expose the illegal dumping of 8,000 tonnes of toxic waste from Europe at Koko, a tiny backwater fishing port in the Niger Delta. The resulting furor led the EC to ban the disposal of toxic waste in the Third World.

Lees's forte lay in going for the jugular of government and industry. He trapped one polluting company in Norway by analysing the chemical composition of eels in the river where the outfall pipe led.

He was always far more interested in causing trouble than in proposing positive alternatives to objectionable policies and practices. He was a formidable eco-warrior; but as a guerrilla fighter, rather than a strategist who planned and executed grand campaigns to change society. Perhaps this was the reason why Lees was never offered the post of executive director of FOE.

Beneath an often prickly and cantankerous professional exterior, he was a spontaneous kind and generous person. He liked browsing in paperback bookshops and through antique markets, almost as much as he loved playing with children. The Loxian sense of mischief that helped to make him a good campaigner also made him a great playmate, and he would have made a tremendous father, as he had wished, had he found the time to start a family.

His partner for the past nine years, Christine Orengo, was a molecular researcher and chemist.

BEN RICH

Ben Rich, engineer and aircraft designer, died of cancer in Ventura, California, on January 5 aged 69. He was born in Manila, the Philippines, on June 18, 1925.



A Lockheed F-117A of the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, one of Ben Rich's Stealth fighter-bombers

FROM the U2 and SR71 spy planes, to the F117A Stealth fighter-bomber which proved so successful in the Gulf War of 1991, Ben Rich was responsible for a stream of aircraft which stretched technology to its utmost limits. For more than 40 years he worked for the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's Advanced Development Company, better known as the Skunk Works, becoming its general manager in 1974 and retiring as president in 1991.

The Skunk Works, so called because of its original location next to a foul-smelling plastics factory in Burbank, California, has long been a source of fascination to the aviation community because of the total secrecy under which it operates. When Rich took control he was even required to work under an alias, choosing, with a certain sense of humour, the sobriquet "Ben Dover".

Ironically, however, his achievement of Stealth technology, which renders an aircraft virtually invisible to enemy radar, was the result of an idea published openly in the West by a Soviet scientist in 1975. Soviet military planners had apparently overlooked the idea or thought it of no consequence, but Rich instantly recognised its potential. "As it happened, I was damned lucky," he wrote in his autobiography last year. "Stealth technology fell in my lap."

The effectiveness of the F117A, whose very existence was long denied by the Pen-

gon, was amply demonstrated during the Gulf War. Although it flew only one per cent of the American-led coalition's air strikes against Iraq, the Stealth fighter accounted for 40 per cent of the targets that were damaged.

The SR71 Blackbird, the fastest aircraft in the world (though rumour has it that the Skunk Works has since produced one that flies even faster and higher), represented an even greater challenge to Rich, who was trained as an aerothermodynamicist. Flying at more than 2,000 miles an hour at altitudes up to 85,000 feet — it once flew from Los Angeles to Washington in 64 minutes — the Blackbird had to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees.

At the time of its conception in the early 1960s there were no standard wires or transducers, no hydraulics or pumps or oils or greases that could take such heat, nor any engine fuel that could be used safely. Rich and his fellow Lockheed designers had to

start from scratch and invent them all, crafting the entire aircraft from titanium. The Blackbird was introduced in 1964 and flew successful spy missions over the Soviet Union until its retirement in 1990.

Rich joined Lockheed in 1950 after gaining master's degrees in science and mechanical engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles, and initially worked as an engineer under Clarence Johnson, one of the world's most famous aircraft designers. Unlike Johnson, who was known for his crusty profanity and demanding style of management, Rich proved to be a low-key manager who achieved results by encouraging his engineers to be ingenious, and then getting out of their way.

In 1994 Ben Rich received the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest US military award which can be given to a civilian. He is survived by his wife Hilda, a son and a daughter.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHANTOMS, CRYSTAL

NEWS

Hurd warns of Franco-German link

Douglas Hurd gave a strong warning to France and Germany that they could not decide the future of the European Union between them, and underlined Britain's determination to play a full part in shaping Europe's destiny.

The Foreign Secretary, speaking in Paris, called on France to work more closely with Britain and to pre-empt any suggestion that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the next French president could set the agenda for Europe as the two countries had before the Maastricht Treaty. Page 1

Troops end night patrols in Belfast

Troops will stop daytime patrols in Belfast from this Sunday in the most significant response yet to the IRA ceasefire. Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, also said that he hoped eventually to end night patrols. Page 1

Guardian upheaval

Peter Preston, Fleet Street's longest-serving newspaper editor, is giving up the editorship of *The Guardian* to become editor-in-chief of *The Observer* and *The Independent*. Page 1

Devolution row

John Major clashed bitterly with Tony Blair over Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament which the Prime Minister claimed could lead to the break up of the United Kingdom. Pages 1, 9

Operation row

A surgeon who allegedly instructed a theatre nurse to carry out an appendix operation was suspended amid calls for a health department inquiry. Page 1

Passion 'killing'

A Moroccan student followed his former girlfriend to England and murdered her parents because he could not accept that she had finished their affair, a court was told. Page 3

Disabled rights

Legal changes to improve the rights of disabled people and to make discrimination illegal were unveiled. Page 4

Doctor's dilemma

A doctor who has yet to receive a penny of the £50,000 damages he won after being accused of sexual harassment is being sued by his own solicitor for fees of £181,000. Page 5

Saatchi & Saatchi hit back with writs

The management of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency has hit back in the battle with Maurice Saatchi, founder and former chairman, and three former top men. Writs have been issued against the four, accusing them of conspiring to damage the business of the group. Claims for damages are expected to run into millions of pounds. Page 1

Waldegrave's hope

William Waldegrave ruled out a ban on the sale of British calves to the Continent but said he was hopeful of gaining European Union support to outlaw veal crates. Page 6

Shortage of heads

Primary schools are facing a long-term shortage of head teachers, according to research published today, that shows the first rise for five years in the number of headship vacancies. Page 7

Grozny bombardment

With the partial Russian ceasefire now formally ended, the Chechen capital of Grozny suffered some of its heaviest bombardments so far. Page 10

Croatia warned

The United Nations said that Croatia's decision to expel peacekeepers from its territory at the end of March could provoke a wider Balkan war. Page 11

Mexican crisis

The Mexican Government is picking up the pieces from its worst financial crisis in more than a decade. After several boom years there is a forecast 30 per cent drop in business. Page 12

Quake warnings

Just 12 months after an earthquake that killed 60 people and damaged thousands of buildings, the residents of Los Angeles have been told to expect worse. Page 13



A potential buyer looks at Rudolf Nureyev's costumes before the contents of the dancer's New York home were sold at auction yesterday

BUSINESS

Bank jobs: Union leaders representing staff in National Westminster's retail division reacted angrily as the bank confirmed that it is to seek further job cuts. Page 21

Rank: The film and leisure combine that owns the Odeon cinemas, has tied up a long-awaited deal to cut its holding in Rank Xerox, the joint venture producing photo-copiers dating from 1950. Page 21

TSE: The bank group has recorded its first half billion pound profit after a sharp fall in provisions on the bad debts amassed during the recession. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 16.2 to 3033.3. Sterling's index rose from 79.3 to 79.5 after a rise from \$1.5605 to \$1.5698 and from DM2.957 to DM2.4005. Page 24

SPORT

Cricket: England failed to reach the finals of the World Series Cup after falling two runs short of the required total against Australia A in Sydney. Page 40

Football: Howard Kendall has been appointed manager of Notts County, the bottom club in the first division. He is their third manager this season. Page 40

Point-to-point: Racing history will be made at Tweseldown this weekend, when betting will take place for the first time on a Sunday at a British racecourse. Page 35

Sliding: A lack of snow threatens the world championships in Spain, but soldiers were needed to help clear an excess of snow from the World Cup course in Kitzbühel, Austria. Page 38

ARTS

Winners: Whoever wins the lottery, one group are sure to get prizes - Britain's architects, who are anticipating £1 billion a year. Page 31

Something amiss: Can Harper Collins really benefit from the £500,000 advance paid to Martin Amis? And what are the implications for his career? Page 32

Punks reformed: The big new album of the week comes from the punkiest of punk bands, now showing remarkable traits of late-flowering romanticism. Page 33

Elder statesman: The bigger the work, the more convincing the interpretation, says Gerald Larner of Mark Elder with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Page 31

FEATURES

Libby Purves: Recovering from expectations on radio. Page 14

Compassionate countess: Lady Limerick packs a lot of caring into her day. She is chairman of the British Red Cross, among her many worthy causes. Page 14

Valerie Groves: "Amis Changes Publisher" has great themes: a villain, a protagonist, at least two beautiful women and a lot of testosterone. Page 15

Anne McElroy: Marcus Sierz with the London Sinfonietta in a forgotten work by Hindemith. Page 15

Advanced forces: Britain's leading defence research and technology establishment is moving into civilian transport. Page 29

Casting spells: Nick Cottam investigates a computer program to help dyslexics to make sense of the written word. Page 29

The alarm expressed by Belgium's Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene at proposals to cut the number of languages used in the European Union is understandable. Page 19

United Nations peacekeeping missions have hit hard times. It makes no sense to continue eroding the UN's credibility by asking it to do what it cannot. Page 19

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A new series shows how to bring a touch of country to a suburban patch. *Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens* (BBC2, 8.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss watches a tribute to Jacqueline du Pré and discovers a woman adored by the camera. Page 39

OPINION

Scotland is different

The Opposition looked particularly weak on income taxation, the levels of which the proposed Scottish Parliament could not only raise but reduce. Page 17

Notre Neil

Mr Kinnock has made an impressive start as the EU's new Commissioner for Transport. Page 17

A jolly good fellow

If there is any club in this country which must extend full membership to women, it is the Oxford and Cambridge. Page 17

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

For those nations which did have monarchs, I think they gained something, and now it seems that it is to be lost - and, of course, once lost, lost for ever. Page 16

BORIS PANKIN

There can be no doubt that the time of Yeltsin is gone. His Bolshevik, authoritarian reflexes proved stronger than newly acquired democratic aspirations. His destiny is fulfilled. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Devolution is still predominantly an issue for the political world. It has important implications but little significance for most voters in England. Yet it is as much an English question as a Scottish and Welsh one. Page 9

PHILIP HOWARD

Let's hear three barks for bitches. I live with at least two of them. Bitches are nicer than dogs. They yap less, do not bite (at least not while they are barking) and run away less often. Page 16

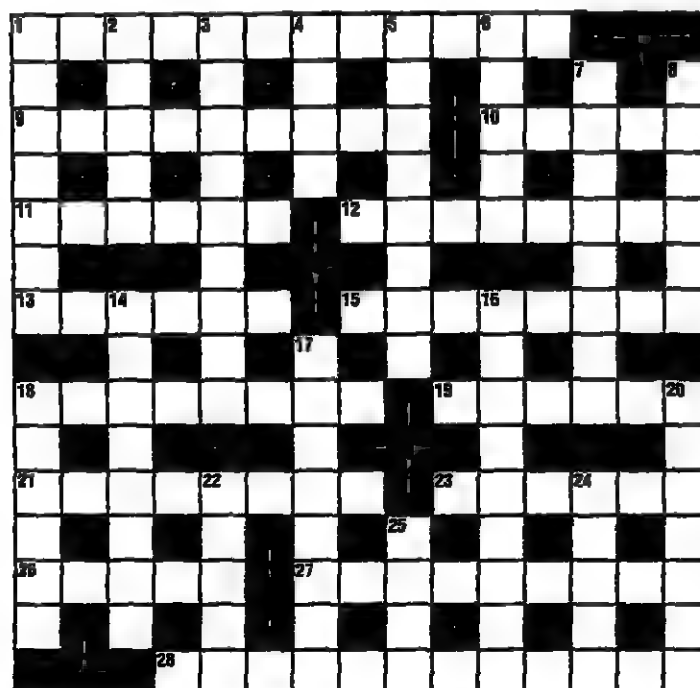
OBITUARIES

Philip Newman, surgeon; Elaine Greene, literary agent; Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth; Ben Rich, aircraft designer. Page 19

LETTERS

Export of calves: Conservatives and Europe; Attlee's legacy. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,751



- ACROSS**
- Expert finished off (12)
 - Royal visitor to club or restaurant (4)
 - Flower-girl bowed (5)
 - The endless fault in the economy (6)
 - Give famous dramatist's name on this (13)
 - Weapon providing artillery support (6)
 - Close relationship one man developed with city (8)
 - Soundness of old gold coins that you initially collected (8)
 - Compose duet with me for singing in church (2,4)
 - Order, in foreign language, a domestic product (4-4)
 - Pieces of music little boy does, possibly, in audition (6)
 - Race run by university the wrong way (5)
- DOWN**
- Overwhelming innings produced by county (5-4)
 - Con-gin's flower (8,4)
 - Judge is right in case of a swindler (7)
 - Clean outside of one piece of furniture (5)
 - Spice, we hear, ground for poet (9)
 - Cricketer groundsman's surprised expression (4)
 - Way in which he is to arrive in the islands (8)
 - Messenger carried in maiden voyage (5)
 - Put up with noisy bird interrupting piece of music (3)
 - Absent partner appears in court (6)
 - Capital way in which everyone follows PM's constituents (4,4)
 - Odd choice taken before crucial game (3-6)
 - Runner so fast he's barely seen? (8)
 - Ball with leading characters in society, perhaps, present (6)
 - Girl admits boy to secret fellowship (7)
 - Person spoken to after sailor captured in swamp (5)
 - Sweltering in Indian interior? Wear this (5)
 - Battle for one of the hills of Rome (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,950

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N H E M I E Y S
D R O P C A N N O N B A L L
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H A K E N E W S B R A D E R

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
South East	703
West of London	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire & the Humber	707
East of Yorkshire	708
West of Yorkshire	709
East Midlands	710
West Midlands	711
East of Wales	712
West of Wales	713
North Wales	714
South Wales	715
East of Scotland	716
West of Scotland	717
North of Scotland	718
South of Scotland	719
East of Ireland	720
West of Ireland	721
North of Ireland	722
South of Ireland	723

AA ROADWATCH

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Region	Forecast
Greater London	724
East of London	725
South East	726
West of London	727
North East	728
North West	729
Yorkshire & the Humber	730
East of Yorkshire	731
West of Yorkshire	732
East Midlands	733
West Midlands	734
East of Wales	735
West of Wales	736
North Wales	737
South Wales	738
East of Scotland	739
West of Scotland	740
North of Scotland	741
South of Scotland	742
East of Ireland	743
West of Ireland	744
North of Ireland	745
South of Ireland	746

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday Highest day temp: Cambridge, 12°C. Lowest day temp: Edinburgh, 4°C. Highest night temp: London, 8°C. Lowest night temp: Manchester, 2°C.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.00 am. Sun sets: 4.17 pm. Moon rises: 5.01 am. Moon sets: 1.44 pm.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a mainly cloudy day, though brighter spells may develop in the east. Apart from a few spots of rain in the north and west, it should be dry. Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy, with a little drizzle blowing in the wind, especially in the west. Western and northern Scotland will have a cloudy day with occasional rain or drizzle and hill fog, while the east will be mainly dry. It will become mild generally. Gales will develop in the north-west. London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel: mainly dry, some bright spells. Wind west or south-west, light or moderate. Max 9C (48F). Cent S, Cent N, E, SW England, Midlands: mainly dry, with some bright spells. Wind southwest, mainly moderate. Max 10C (50F). S & N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloudy, some coastal drizzle. Wind southwest, moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F). NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: mainly dry with some bright spells. Wind southwest, moderate or fresh. Max 11C (52F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: cloudy, occasional rain, hill fog. Wind southwest, fresh or strong, locally gale force. Max 9C (48F). NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, drizzle. Wind southwest, fresh becoming gale. Max 8C (48F). Outlook: mild with rain spreading from northwest tomorrow. Brighter on Sunday before rain returns.

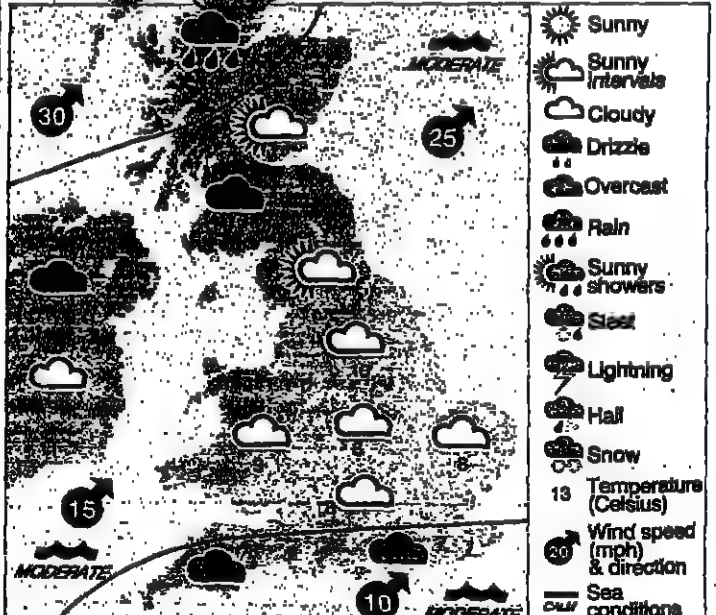
AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
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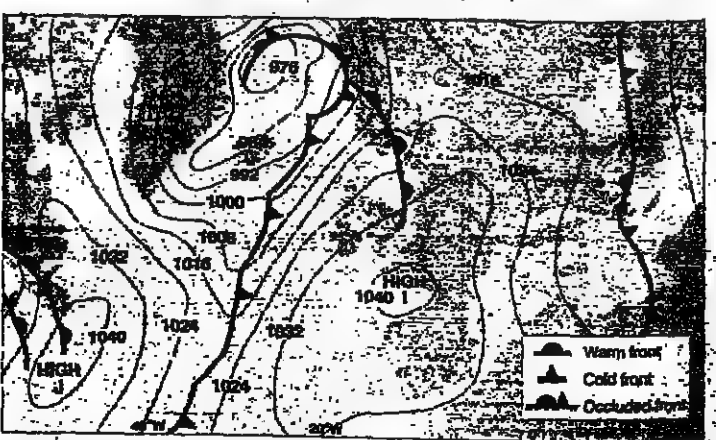
ABROAD

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
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Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high I will drift south and decline a little; high J will move northeast before being swamped by low pressure from the west



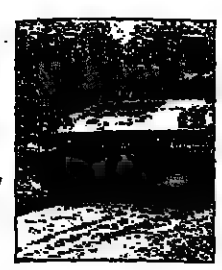
HIGH TIDES

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
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Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	Cardiff	10.0	London	10.0	Manchester	10.0

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INFOTECH 28, 29
Defence hi-tech could upgrade civilian cars



ARTS 31-33
Britain's architects prepare to build on their lottery windfall



SPORT 34-40
Coming to terms with change in life of O'Reilly

SEEKING CASH FOR THE COSTIN
Page 25

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 13 1995

British Gas may enter UK electricity market

By MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

BRITISH GAS is considering entering the UK electricity market, effectively turning the tables on the RECs which are intent on capturing a major share of the gas supply business.

The Times. Mr Giordano emphasised that British Gas has no intention of mounting a takeover bid for one or more of the RECs — expected to undergo major consolidation in the wake of Trafalgar House's offer for Northern Electric.

Mr Giordano said that a Trafalgar House-style bid for a REC "would not be practical." He described the administration advantages of combining gas and electricity supply as "obvious". In his words: "The RECs have taken advantage of this the other way round."

Peter Spring, an analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker, said that it would be "very logical" for British Gas to enter the electricity arena.

The domestic electricity market is not due to be opened up until April 1, 1998 but concern is mounting that Offer, the regulatory authority spearheaded by Professor Stephen Littlechild, will run behind schedule in ensuring that the RECs carry out the required investment.

until December 8. Offer's haste to change the rules appears to relate to the timing of the pathfinder prospectus. This raises the question of whether the rules will be altered without reference to Parliament.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3033.2	(-16.2)
Yield	4.25%	
FT-SE A All share	1506.95	(-6.20)
Nikkei	19410.01	(-138.46)
New York		
Dow Jones	3853.82	(-6.41)*
S&P Composite	400.67	(-1.00)*

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	6 3/4%	(6 3/4%)
Yield	7.50%	(7.50%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
Libor (Mar)		

STERLING		
New York	1.5720	(1.5600)
London	1.5727	(1.5577)
DM	2.4007	(2.3926)
FF	8.3070	(8.2810)
Sfr	2.0117	(2.0071)
Yen	165.39	(165.58)
\$ Index	79.5	(79.3)

DOLLAR		
London	1.5683	(1.5580)
DM	2.3930	(2.3845)
Sfr	1.9777	(1.9683)
Yen	165.75	(166.04)
\$ Index	62.8	(63.1)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$18.28	(\$18.30)
GOLD		
London close	\$361.05	(\$376.05)

Defence link
France is willing to promote further collaboration between defence manufacturers in Europe. The French want an industry-led "streamlining" of armaments producers to one or two specialists in each main area. Page 22

Cheer in store
The stream of upbeat Christmas trading statements from British retailers continued yesterday as Sainsbury, Body Shop and Lloyds Chemists all reported healthy increases in sales. The only disappointment to the Christmas cheer was a worse than expected performance by Sears, the Selfridges to Olympus retail company. Page 27

Sainsbury seeks to buy Texas for £250m

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

J SAINSBURY, Britain's leading supermarket group, is in talks with Ladbroke to buy Texas Homecare in a move that would make it the country's largest do-it-yourself retailer.

Reports in the City suggest that Sainsbury is in advanced talks with Ladbroke over the acquisition of Texas for an estimated £250 million. Ladbroke has long made no secret of its desire to sell Texas to cut its high borrowings, and Sainsbury is keen to expand its successful chain of Homebase stores.

A merger of Texas, the country's second-largest do-it-yourself chain with 238 stores, and Homebase would create a business with annual sales of more than £1 billion. The combined group would be larger than B&Q, the existing market leader owned by Kingfisher. Sainsbury would be expected to rename the Texas stores and introduce its Homebase retailing format, which has proved more profitable.

Both companies refused yesterday to comment on the talks. "There is nothing to report at present. All releases are being handled by Ladbroke," said a Texas spokeswoman. But City brokers expressed delight that Ladbroke might be able to sell Texas to concentrate on its gaming and hotels divisions, and surprise that Sainsbury would be prepared to take on the risk of merging the Texas stores into its own chain. "If Ladbroke get more than £150 million in the deal, its shareholders will be doing cartwheels," said one leading leisure analyst.

Texas has struggled in a bitter price war with B&Q since the recession. In 1993 it

reported sales of £692 million but profits of only £7.8 million. Analysts forecast that it will make only about £8 million this year and might not recover fully until the end of the decade under its existing ownership.

If Sainsbury's acquisition goes ahead, the group will have to rationalise Texas's chain, which is not highly regarded in the industry, and its high stock levels.

Sainsbury has achieved considerable success with Homebase, which last year reported sales of £279 million. Instead of competing on price, Homebase concentrates on service and Sainsbury has used its supermarket experience to design brighter stores than its competitors, with stronger stock control. Homebase has also benefited from the Laura Ashley furnishing concessions within many of its stores.

The City has been waiting for further rationalisation within the do-it-yourself retailing industry because of the low profits that many of the chains have been making. Do it All, jointly owned by Boots and WH Smith, has been another notable casualty, and last year announced it was closing many of its stores in an effort to improve profits.

A Homebase/Texas chain would own more than 10 million square feet of retailing space. An acquisition by Sainsbury would follow its strategy of diversifying away from its core food retailing business in Britain. Last November it bought a 16.7 per cent stake in Giant, an American food retailer based in Washington, for £211 million.

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Pennington, page 25



Break-up: Dieter Bock announced that Lonrho's hotel operations were being repackaged for possible flotation

Bock wants Lonrho to focus on minerals core

By CARL MORTSHED

DIETER BOCK, the new chief executive of Lonrho, wants to turn the trading conglomerate into a world-class minerals group and has plans to float off the hotels division and African trading companies.

Lonrho's hotels business, a 7,000-room operation including the UK-based Metropole hotels, is being repackaged into a single company and Mr Bock said yesterday that flotation is one of the options being considered. The assets, which also include the Princess chain in the US and Caribbean and African hotels in Kenya, Ghana, Mauritius and Mozambique have a book value of £607 million and made profits last year of £26 million.

The possible break-up of the vast trading group put together by Lonrho's former boss,

Tiny Rowland, was announced as the company reported a sharp rise in operating profit from £129 million to £165 million although pre-tax profits fell from £165 million to £112 million. Profits in the previous year including an £87 million gain from asset sales.

Announcing a 19 per cent rise in the dividend to 4.75p, Mr Bock said: "After two years in London, I have to say there are no skeletons in the cupboard." He said he had no plans to buy Mr Rowland's 6 per cent stake in the company.

Lonrho generated profits of £72 million from mining in the year to September 30 including its remaining 43 per cent share in Ashanti Goldfields, floated off last summer. Lonrho plans to expand its

mining interest and has entered into a joint venture with Gencor to seek out new prospects in Russia and Central Asia.

Profits from general trading fell from £26 million to £19 million, mainly due to losses of £5 million from manufacturing and at Surrey Turf, the construction business. Lonrho is considering a flotation of a package of its African trading businesses which could show profits of up to £20 million depending on what is included in the sale.

The acquisition of Agipcoal in South Africa boosted coal mining profits at Duker Exploration by £6 million to £13 million while profits from agriculture rose from £19 million to £33 million.

Mr Bock's fund bought 1.49 million Northern shares, or 1.33 per cent of the company, between December 21 and January 11 and paid prices ranging from 95p to 100p. Northern shares closed yesterday at 97p, down 3p, meaning the fund has made no return on the investment yet.

But Mr Bock, the man who took on the Bank of England during the currency crisis in 1992, is known as a high-stakes gambler with good instincts. Trafalgar House's hostile bid for the company is worth between £10.48 and £10.77 per share, for a total of about £1.2 billion, and could increase dramatically if shareholders reject the bid or a white knight appears.

Electricity shares, on the other hand, could plummet if the Office of Fair Trading refers Trafalgar's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The bid would lapse before the MMC hands down its decision. Analysts said there is a 50/50 chance of a referral on "public interest" grounds.

The fund was forced to reveal its Northern stake because the company is the subject of a takeover. It does not have to reveal the size of its other electricity investments unless they go beyond 3 per cent.

Soros fund stakes power shares

By ERIC REGULY

THE best indication yet that the entire electricity sector faces upheaval emerged yesterday when a fund controlled by George Soros, the Hungarian-American billionaire, said it had bought stakes in Northern Electric and "several" other electricity companies.

The Quantum Partners fund, based in the Dutch Antilles, also suggested that it may take an active role in influencing the outcome of any takeover battles. It said it has "expressed its willingness to work with management or potential acquirers to enhance shareholder value in the sector."

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Rank reduces shareholding in Xerox



Michael Gifford, left, and Leslie Fletcher, chairman, see no reason to cut Rank's stake further

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RANK Organisation, the film and leisure combine that owns the Odeon cinemas, has tied up a long-awaited deal to cut its holding in Rank Xerox, the joint venture producing photocopiers that dates back to 1956.

Rank, which has regularly had to dampen down speculation that it plans to sell out entirely, is disposing of two fifths of its 49 per cent holding in Xerox, its Japanese partner. The group will receive £620 million in cash for the shares, which will be used to cut debt and fund expansion of its Oasis holiday camps business and other leisure operations.

Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, said he could see no reason to decrease further the holding in Rank Xerox. But the stock market was upset by the terms of the deal and fears that Rank, which has been progressively distancing itself from the venture since its creation, was getting too little for its stake. The shares fell 22p to 381p.

profit of £325 million to Rank once completed. Mr Gifford said if his company did nothing but put the money on deposit, it would earn more cash than was received in dividends from the shares.

The group was announcing full-year figures that showed the effect of the emergence of the group's leisure and entertainment markets from recession in the UK and US.

Pre-tax profits, despite a £62 million charge on restructuring Rank Xerox already announced, improved to £284 million (£276.6 million). Earnings per share, stripping out the special charge, were 26.5p (18.5p), and a final dividend of 9p makes a total 9 per cent higher at 13.25p.

The star performer was Rank's video duplication business where volumes rose by almost half on the back of the success of releases such as Jurassic Park, Mrs Doubtfire and The Flintstones.

The deal will bring in a

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□ Ladbroke swaggers away from Texas □ Xerox deal eases the debt burden □ Riding the rollercoaster in emerging markets

UNLESS it is a case of extreme wishful thinking on the part of hard-pressed Ladbroke shareholders, there are strong signs that Sainsbury is on the point of relieving the group of its ill-fated Texas Homebase chain. If so, it will be the best news for the betting and hotels group since it finally admitted it was not a property company 18 months ago.

Ladbroke has been desperate to find a way out of Texas for years. The reasons why the group ever thought it could be a DIY retailer are lost in the past and Cyril Sted's memory.

Texas troubled along happily during the housing boom of the Eighties when the British public wanted all the electric drills and simulation brass soapdishes they could lay their hands on. But as soon as the market became competitive, it became clear it was woefully equipped to fight a price war against B&Q, its larger and more efficient competitor.

One of the truisms of management textbooks is that there is no winner in a competition to be the lowest cost producer in any market. If there is a winner in the price battles of the DIY market, it is certainly not Texas. Last year, the company generated a profit margin of barely 1 per cent on its £692 million turnover. Profits in early years had only been sup-

ported by rebates from suppliers, but this had in turn led to grotesque overstocking of all the wrong kinds of goods. The group tried to address this last year by setting aside a stock provision of £20.6 million, but this alone is unlikely to encourage DIY enthusiasts to queue at Texas's door.

Texas is not alone in its misery. Do It All has been suffering at least as badly. Great Mills, a subsidiary of RMC, has the good fortune to have its figures submerged in a division, but judging by the emptiness of its car parks it cannot be doing much better.

In an industry where price competition has taken such a toll, rationalisation is inevitable. But the only attempt at it so far was the ill-fated merger of Do It All and Payless by Boots and WH Smith. So the market is likely to be extremely wary of any acquisition by Sainsbury.

Sainsbury has its reasons, of course. The group has applied the skills of running a foodstore to selling screws and nails. As a result, the presentation and stock control at Homebase is years ahead of the competition, a

service that its customers pay a premium for on everything they buy, as its results demonstrate. In the last half year, Homebase registered an operating margin of more than 7.4 per cent, higher than even B&Q.

The vexed question is whether Sainsbury could replicate its success with Homebase on a business almost three times its size. But Sainsbury likes being a market leader. The market may have its doubts, nor will it be too pleased at the pace of Sainsbury's investment in its other businesses, just as it seemed that food retailing could become an attractive cash cow.

Changing ranks

THE Rank deal to lighten its holding in Xerox, which seems to have taken the market quite unawares, is easy to understand once one appreciates the difference between earnings per share, an artificial measurement in this context, and cash flow that exists in the real world.

First, the specifics. Rank is



selling 40 per cent of its existing holding in Rank Xerox while simultaneously tidying up its relationship with majority-owned A Kershaw. Rank will end with 29.4 per cent of the votes but just 20 per cent of profits, because of the structure of its existing arrangement with Xerox of Japan. The deal would appear to value the whole of Rank's holding in Rank Xerox at just £1.5 billion, against some market hopes of £2 billion, which goes some way to explaining yesterday's sharp share price fall. Some observers were also unhappy with the 12 times' earnings in the joint venture Rank is paying. But Rank is raising its net proceeds because no capital gains tax will be payable on the

disposal. Both the parties insist no further lightening of Rank's holding is planned, and it can be assumed, given the difficulty Xerox would have in funding further purchases, that that state of affairs will continue for some time. Furthermore, a massive inflow of funds into Rank from the sale of the total holding would only have accentuated the company's appeal to predators.

Rank, which has laboured under a savage debt burden since it overpaid for Mecca in 1990, has swapped a spectacularly successful investment that is not now bringing in returns commensurate with the amount of capital tied up in it for a large chunk of cash that will mean Michael Gifford no longer has to worry about borrowings. On a pro forma basis, the deal would have depressed Rank's 1994 earnings per share by 5 to 10 per cent. But it will in addition mean Rank has £620 million, minus the £55 million to clean up Kershaw, to invest on replacing dividends of just £25 million earned on the Rank Xerox shares being sold, with a consequent improvement in cash flows. The

only question must be whether Rank can repeat the tax dodge next time it is allowed to lighten its holding.

Caught in the Mexican wave

THE great appeal of investing in booming but volatile emerging markets has been their diversity. Each year, some are likely to feature among both top and bottom performing world stock markets. In 1994, for instance, Mexico was in the dumps while Peru rode high. But the underlying growth in emerging economies should keep investors, if protected by a wide spread, ahead of the average mature market. Hence the appeal of emerging markets trusts.

In the short term, Mexico has undermined this happy scenario. The domino effect is looming large. The Mexican wave flooring Latin American stock markets—and the markets for many more secondary currencies—is far from over. Yesterday, Argentina's central bank reduced banks' reserve require-

ments to and liquidity. But its real defence is allowing the dollar to take over from the reformed Argentine peso—in bank reserves or people's savings—to demonstrate the sanctity of its one-for-one parity.

Even across the world in Turkey, which went through a similar stock market boom and bust, officials were lining up yesterday to reassure investors that there would be no repeat of Mexico in Anatolia. Turkey's protection is that the hot money it lost in its own crash has not returned, so cannot flee.

And that, perhaps, is the difference. Equity investment helps strengthen a developing economy in the long run. Mexico was living off American hot money attracted by high interest rates. Once the dust has settled, investors must distinguish.

Unconvinced

THE heroic piece of deregulation allowing smaller companies to skip statutory accounts may fall foul of market forces. Accountants Hacker Young polled bankers at its seminars on the reforms and found that four out of five would still insist on audited accounts for all but minor lending. Worse still—save, naturally, for auditors—nearly all would sniff at non-audited statements, even for existing clients.

TSB profits leap as bad debts recede

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

TSB GROUP has recorded its first half a billion-pound profit after a sharp fall in provisions on the bad debts it amassed during the recession.

The bank saw its pre-tax profits leap 67 per cent to a record £504 million in the year to October 31. Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, said the figures were really good news for the bank: "Our income streams can serve us well and take us forward in a very competitive industry."

Bad debt provisions fell almost half from £335 million to £173 million. Underlying profits edged ahead only £10 million to £703 million, and the contribution from the main retail bank and Hill Samuel, the merchant banking subsidiary, both fell. The group is still paying a final dividend of 5.48p, payable on April 3, making 9.02p for the year, up 17.5 per cent.

During the year, the group's capital rose 11 per cent to £1.9 billion, making TSB one of the most strongly financed banks in Britain. Despite this, Sir Nicholas effectively ruled out making a bid for a building society, by saying that most building societies want to remain independent to expand their own businesses. TSB has been tipped as a potential buyer after Lloyds Bank's bid for Cheltenham & Gloucester.

During the year, TSB encouraged all its customers to move their savings out of old-fashioned low-interest rate accounts into more attractive deposit accounts. This cost the bank £100 million in lost income, even though total deposits rose £800 million to £15.7 billion. The fall was mainly responsible for the £16 million fall in the bank's profits to £438 million during the year.

Despite the loss, income, Peter Ellwood, the chief executive, welcomed the shift. "We have removed a historic vulnerability by offering only a leading group of products," he said. The bank would continue to offer competitive products and services to attract more business. It won a record 300,000 new customers during the year. TSB's mortgage book expanded at four times the average industry rate.

However, Sir Nicholas confirmed that TSB planned to close 200 of its branches during the current year, compared with 90 in 1994. But the group's redundancy programme was slowing down and fewer than 1,000 staff would lose their jobs this year. Since 1989, TSB has reduced its payroll by 8,500, or more than a quarter.

Tempos, page 24

Hazlewood sells fish business



HAZLEWOOD Foods, the food manufacturer, is raising £59 million from the sale of its shellfish business to a consortium led by CVC Capital Partners, including members of its management team.

The proceeds will cut borrowings by £59 million, but pre-tax profits will be affected by an exceptional charge of £48 million arising from the sale.

In the year to March 31, the shellfish business made operating profits of £10.8 million. Hazlewood, where Peter Barr, above, is chairman, said the sale, which needs shareholder approval, is part of its policy of selling bulk-based activities in favour of more profitable areas. Tempos, page 24

Weir Group shares fall as jobs go

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

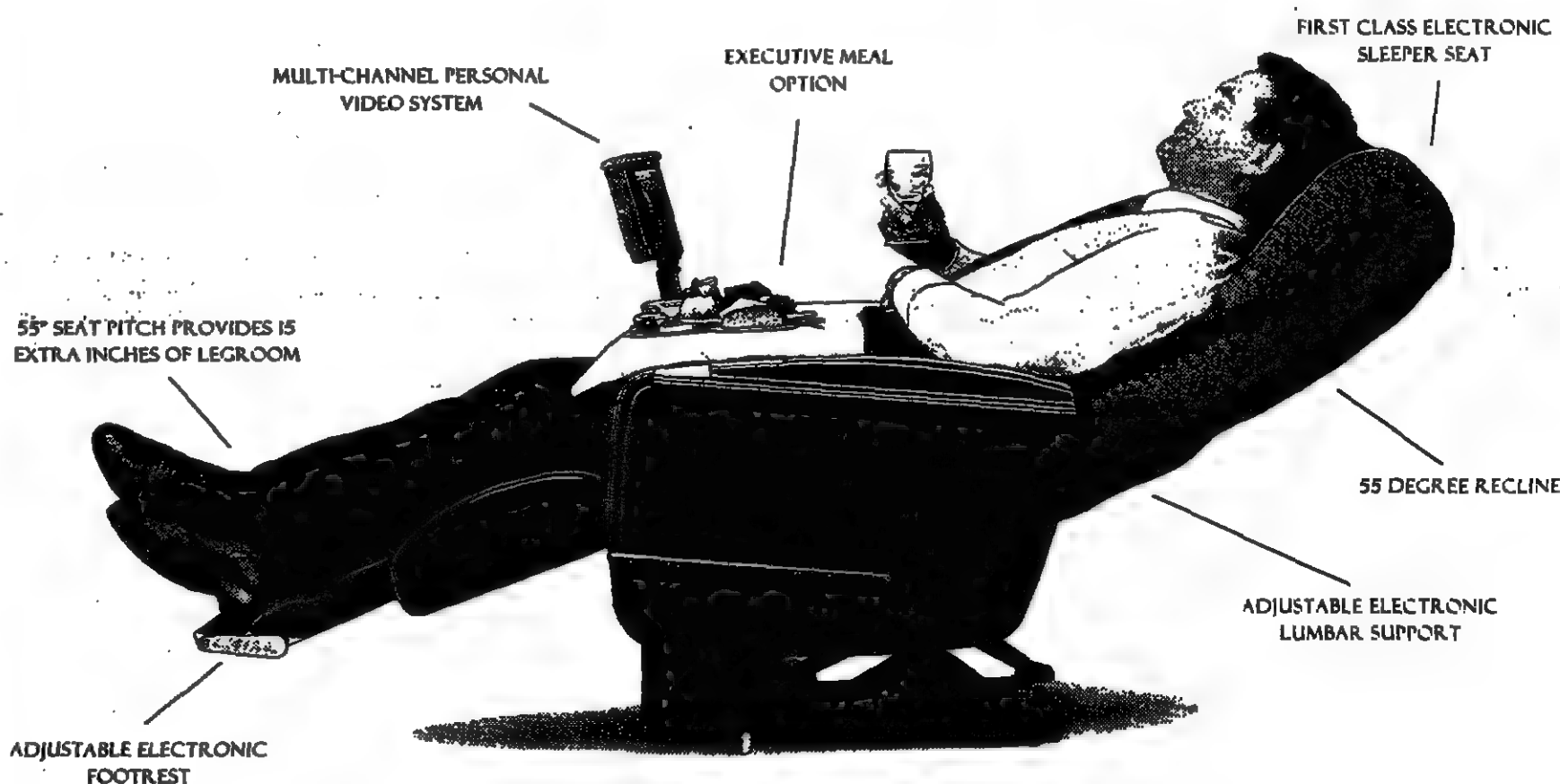
SHARES in Weir Group fell to 25p from 29p after the engineering company said it would take a £7 million charge against the reorganisation of its pump manufacturing activities. A total of 420 jobs will be lost as a result of the restructuring although the net redundancy figure could be reduced to 300 as a result of redeployment.

The changes follow the £210 million acquisition of Enviro-tech, a US group, last August and involves the closure of a plant in Sacramento as well as cutbacks in Manchester.

The company also gave warning that trading had shown little improvement, in spite of widespread reports of economic recovery in its main markets in the UK, US, Canada, South Africa and Australia. "Trading conditions generally continue to follow the dull pattern reported at the time of the group's interim results and it is disappointing to be unable to report improvement in such key areas as the demand for spare parts," said Sir Ronald Garrick, chief executive. However, order input for the last quarter of 1994 showed some signs of improvement.

Sir Ronald said the reorganisation would improve efficiency through reduction in costs and the better utilisation of facilities.

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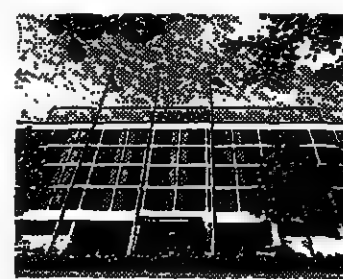


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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares slip on worries of fallout from peso rescue

EVENTS on Wall Street continued to hold centre stage after President Clinton's vow to support Mexico after the collapse of the peso.

As a result, share prices in London were left to extend this week's losses, prompted by a futures related sell-off. Investors are clearly worried that the strain imposed on the dollar by the effort of underpinning the peso could push up US interest rates and result in a potentially damaging sell-off on Wall Street of equities and US Treasury bonds.

As a result, the FT-SE 100 Index saw an early lead of almost 11 points steadily whittled away before a shaky opening for shares in New York, only to close near the bottom, with the index ending 16.2 lower at 3,033.2. A total of 594 million shares were traded.

Meanwhile, J. Sainsbury, Britain's biggest supermarket chain, is poised to spend £250 million snapping up Texas Homecare, the DIY chain, from Ladbroke.

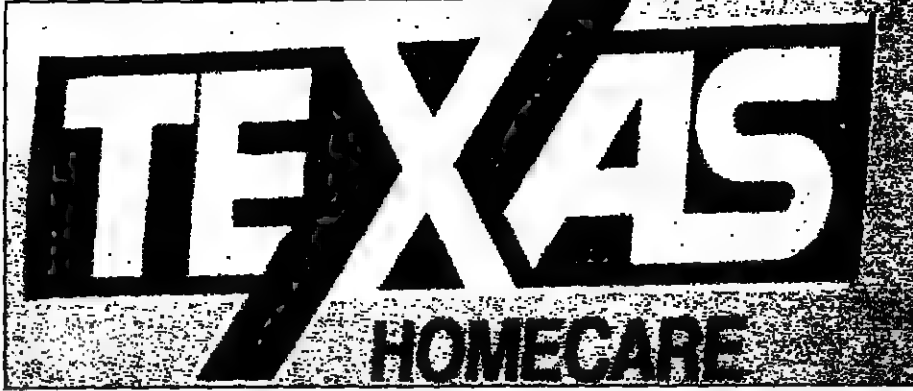
That was the talk among the chattering classes in the Square Mile yesterday as speculation intensified that a deal may be imminent. Such a move by Sainsbury, which already owns the Homebase chain of DIY stores, would raise the number of outlets it controls to 315.

The Ladbroke share price touched 170p on the failure of the deal to materialise, before rallying to end the day at 174p. Sainsbury ended 1 1/2p easier at 414p after going ex-dividend.

Early attention was focused on Rank Organisation, with the price tumbling 22p to 38p after it announced plans to dispose of 40 per cent of its stake in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corporation, its partner, for £620 million. The sale will be completed towards the end of March and should realise a profit for Rank of £325 million. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt and provide capital to re-invest in its core business.

The news was accompanied by full-year figures from Rank showing pre-tax profits 37 per cent higher at £376.6 million. Shareholders were rewarded with a 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 13.25p.

Meanwhile, Bank is also proposing to buy the minority interest in Kershaw, amounting to 13.8 per cent of the issued equity. Kershaw



J. Sainsbury is poised to spend £250m for Ladbroke's Texas Homecare group

leapt 36p on the news to £12.63.

Investors panned over the latest clutch of trading statements from leading stores groups in an attempt to establish a true picture of conditions on the high street. Most of them issued fairly upbeat statements reporting higher sales over the Christmas period although, judging by the

disappointment at its second half sales performance, which saw a near 3 per cent decline at Freemans, its mail order operation. Margins also came under pressure.

Owen & Robinson saw a heavy fall in the retail sector, dropping 7p to 20p after warning that it would be plunging into the red by the end of the year. The group has

share price finished 7p cheaper at 21p.

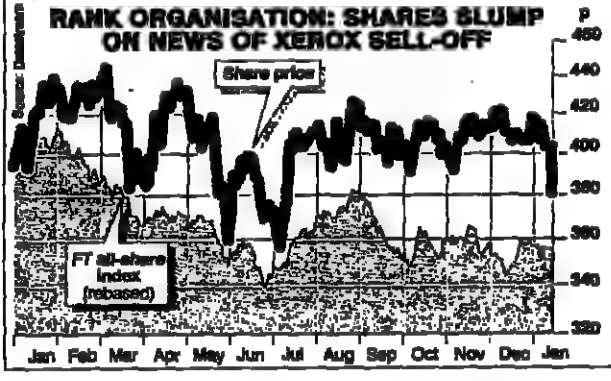
Ladbroke's Tiny Rowland signed off his final year as chief executive with an impressive performance which saw pre-tax profits grow almost 30 per cent to £165 million.

The shares finished 2 1/2p better at 158 1/2p, cheered by some optimistic comments about the future from the tiny's successor, Dieter Bock. He confirmed plans to lump together the leisure and hotel interests before floating them off separately.

Shares of Weir Group tumbled 49p to 244p after it announced plans to axe 420 jobs, close its US operation in Sacramento and reorganise its Manchester pump plant. GILT EDGED: Gilt made headway in this trading on the back of another firm performance by German bunds and at the expense of US Treasury bonds. But demand was lacklustre, with investors not prepared to commit themselves ahead of today's expected announcement from the Bank of England about the next auction. The Bank is expected to issue a further £2 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2000.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt touched £101 1/2 before ending the session five ticks firmer at £100 1/2, with a modest 41,500 contracts completed.

In long Treasury 9 per cent 2012 climbed £4 to £103 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 was five ticks lower at £102 1/2. NEW YORK: Gold shares strengthened on Wall Street in the face of nervousness over currency markets, but most other shares were lower, leaving the Dow Jones industrial average 8.41 points down at 3,853.62 at midday.



COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

WHEAT & RICE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London & Oslo)

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

WHEAT & RICE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London & Oslo)

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

WHEAT & RICE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London & Oslo)

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

WHEAT & RICE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

NEW YORK (midday)

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

TOKYO

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

HONG KONG

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

AMSTERDAM

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

SYDNEY

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

FRANKFURT

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

SINGAPORE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

BRUSSELS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

PARIS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

ZURICH

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

STOCKS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

NEW YORK (midday)

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

TOKYO

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

HONG KONG

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

AMSTERDAM

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

SYDNEY

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

FRANKFURT

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

SINGAPORE

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

BRUSSELS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

PARIS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

ZURICH

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000

STOCKS

Mar	Jul	Dec	Vol
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-1000
100-1000	100-1000	100-1000	100-100

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Banking on a win

CHRIS WRIGHT, the Chrysalis group chairman recently persuaded to amend his eccentric hairstyle, walked out on a finance-raising talks with a bevy of bankers in New York last night, informing them he just had to watch a basketball game. Pledging to be back later, the music mogul, dashed to catch a flight back to England. It may have left his US bankers wondering whether Wright, 50, was starting to crack up. That would be a misreading. The real purpose of his sudden departure was to be at the NEC in Birmingham tonight to watch the Sheffield Sharks, his own basketball team, play (he says beat) the Thames Valley Tigers in the finals of the 7-Up trophy. Not bad going for the Sharks' first season.

Pig cycle

JURGEN GEHRELS, chief executive of Siemens UK and chairman of the German-British Chamber of Industry and Commerce, confides to me that the semiconductor business reminds him of the Schweinezyklus, or pig cycle. Even though his company is investing heavily in semiconductor capacity, he points out that farmers all seem to decide to raise pigs at the same time, only to discover that the market has collapsed by the time they are ready for market.



"It mends the holes in your clothes"

Bad form

DIETER BOCK seems to have taken over the talent for courting controversy from Tony Rowland, at least with the German press, who understandably regard Bock as one of their own. It appears that the nose of the lady correspondent of *Handelsblatt* in London was put badly out of joint when Bock refused her an interview on the grounds that it would be bad form prior to Lombr's results. Unfortunately, Bock had earlier promised an exclusive with *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, which duly went ahead. To add insult to injury, the invitation to Lombr's press conference went to a male colleague of the rebuffed *Handelsblatt* correspondent, causing the fur to fly at yesterday's Suffolk Street briefing.

Top advice

MORGAN STANLEY was top adviser on cross-border deals in Europe last year, up from fourth place, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, prompting Philip Healy, its editor, to ask whether the US investment bank needed to bother with the ill-fated plan to merge with SG Warburg. In the latter's defence, he observes that the UK's end up by moving up from sixth to third position.

MIKE ABRAHAM, responsible for monitoring and investigations at the Personal Investment Authority, is leaving for life on the other side of the fence at Barclays Financial Services. He becomes deputy compliance officer, with special responsibility for Barclays Life, which, I recall, was last year publicly reprimanded by the Securities and Investments Board.

COLIN NARBROUGH

Cedric Brown and Richard Giordano talk about pay, jobs, prices and leaks

The hottest seats in British business

The top team at
British Gas know
all about pressure.
They spoke to
Melvyn Marckus



Cedric Brown, left, and Richard Giordano insist that the changes must continue if the company is to stand the test of competition

Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, and chief executive Cedric Brown, preside over a £13 billion utility which, in recent weeks, has suffered an unprecedented barrage of adverse publicity.

The fuse was lit last November when Mr Brown's 75 per cent salary increase from £270,000 to £475,000 hit the headlines of quality and tabloid newspapers alike. Reports that showroom staff were to be axed and salaries cut, followed. More recently came the "safety scare" based on a leaked memorandum indicating that British Gas plans to cut its annual spend on gas leak checks from £9 million to £1 million.

As the headlines cascaded, *The Times* requested an interview with the industrial duo at the receiving end. The essential message emanating yesterday from the chairman's office on the 14th floor of Rivermill House, the company's London HQ overlooking the Thames, is that change must go on if British Gas is to flourish in a competitive environment. Much of the publicity is perceived as ill-founded, based on incomplete facts, but the damage to the company's image is acknowledged. In Giordano's words: "There has clearly been damage. I do not believe that it will prove permanent."

The interview, with those destined to lead British Gas into the new era of domestic competition, was wide ranging and unrestricted.

Diversification into electricity distribution is under consideration at British Gas although there are no plans to mount a takeover bid for one of the RECs. According to Giordano, a bid for a REC would be impractical but "the administration advantages are obvious", which the RECs (rival gas distributors) "have taken advantage of". He adds: "This, of course, represents another regulated business. There is an instinct that perhaps we should stay out of it." Brown concurs: "We are considering the possibilities. There are pros and cons."

Do you think you underestimated the political sensitivity that surrounds British Gas? I asked Giordano, mindful of the recent publicity. "I was taken by surprise by the degree of animosity out there. So many who were so quick to assume that British Gas was doing the wrong thing. That surprised me. The company has a superb safety record, a superb service record. I think that has been acknowledged. To suddenly find that questioned did surprise me."

So the attack on safety cut-backs was unfounded? Giordano: "We have spent hundreds of millions of pounds to get cast iron pipe out of the system."

Brown interjects: "Billions, billions."

Giordano continues: "We have replaced the cast iron pipe with polyethylene in order to improve the safety performance and remove the need for constant inspection. So an internal memo that says our on-line inspection can be reduced from £9 million to £1 million, suddenly creates a safety hazard issue. The reality is that the £9 million and the £1 million are tiny fractions of the hundreds of millions spent by TransCo."

"Some mole leaks a piece of paper which creates a brouhaha over safety — which comes to nothing because it is not a safety problem — and British Gas is pulled through the mire. These things, incidentally, are described as 'public relations' gaffes. The fact of the matter is that we probably possess 500 pieces of paper in the files, all of which, if they are released by a mole to somebody who wants to make mischief, are capable of mischief."

Q: What of the showroom sensation?

Giordano: "That was a classic. It related to an internal memo, dated October 17th — which was not even a decision memo — and hey presto it appears the night before the Dudley West by-election and gets reported as if it was a momentous piece of news."

Brown: "As if it was a fait accompli. Nobody has had their wages cut."

Giordano: "Nobody out there said 'Hey, this is dated October 17th, how come it popped up in December?' This, again, is called a PR gaffe. If I worked in the PR department I think I would go to Cedric and say: 'If you don't want any more of these PR gaffes, let's burn all the files.'"

"I guess the point is that we have

had a crystal ball, and that crystal ball told me that all of these problems stemmed from the pay decision. I wouldn't do it again, but I don't think that's true."

Brown: "I was appointed chief executive in August 1992 at a salary of £270,000. There was no increase in 1993. If, in 1994, the board had decided that I should receive some increase, 5 per cent or whatever, that, plus the annual bonus would

'Some mole leaks a piece of paper... and British Gas is pulled through the mire'

become a political football. The problem is that if you define these sorts of things, which are part of the micro-management of British Gas's re-engineering process, as banana skins, there may be another 50 banana skins ahead of us."

Brown: "There is a total commitment to safety within the company. We have an excellent safety record and we are determined to maintain that. Safety cannot be a political football."

I address Giordano and Brown at the same time. Would you, with the benefit of hindsight, have handled the pay issue differently?

Giordano: "If I were Cedric and I

have given me a total remuneration of around £400,000 in 1994. The figure of £475,000 needs to be seen against that and the removal of other aspects of the package."

Q: Presumably you will be making these points to the Employment Select Committee?

Brown: "We will put in a written submission. If they have further questions to ask, I will answer them. I attempt to get across the complexity of what we are doing. This is not a cosy monopoly. We are subject to intense regulation — although not all our businesses are regulated — and there is a quickening of competition. We have had to separate our

trading operations from transportation. Our exploration and production operations would equate to a FTSE company in their own right: larger than Enterprise and Lasmo combined. We are competing in a world market. A recent survey described British Gas as the premier global gas company. That included world class companies such as Enron, Shell and Nova Corporation of Canada. I suspect the pay of Enron's chief executive is close on ten times what I receive."

Giordano: "There is no consultant who would deny that Cedric Brown's job is big, complex and challenging. There are executive mercenaries. Look at the escalation of the remuneration of finance directors. There are chief executives who threaten to quit, ask the board to call their bluff or fork up. Are we supposed to say that because Cedric, whom I hasten to add has not acted in this way, has spent his entire life at below the going rate?"

Q: Why did you not emphasise the extent of the company's regulatory problems to the Trade and Industry Select Committee?

Giordano: "We need the Gas Bill. To cook a snoot at the Government would not have been very sensible. It is important that new entrants into the domestic market pick up

their social obligations. If there was not a Gas Bill, merely a lowering of thresholds, that would be an invitation to chaos."

Q: Are we going to see cost reflective prices?

Giordano: "This must eventually come about. Without cost reflective prices we are in danger of being cherry-picked and cherry-picking represents a menace to the profit and loss account. Our direct debit scheme is a step towards rebalancing prices. In the end the market place creates its own rebalancing."

Q: But Clare Spottiswoode, at Ofgas, has already "fixed" aspects of the standing charges.

Giordano: "You are referring to the standing charge relating to the lowest end of the range. This has been made a bit more attractive for companies to service the small end of the market. There is an element of cross subsidy implied in that."

Q: Is British Gas happy to go along with that?

Brown: "Yes. It is a pragmatic recognition of the significant cross subsidies which exist. One has to smooth the way towards becoming fully cost reflective."

Q: Do you think it is fully appreciated that many consumers will lose out as a result of rebalancing?

Giordano: "It is not so much the prospect of higher prices but the price differentials between consumers, with the latter perceived as losers. Those who do not pay by direct debit are already seen as losers, paying a net 5 per cent more than those who do."

Q: But might not prices go up by as much as 30 per cent?

Giordano: "I do not visualise prices going up by 30 per cent. There is nothing in the arithmetic that suggests that."

Brown: "We have given our views on prices to the Government, the MMC and Ofgas. There will be winners and losers. Significant amounts could be involved."

Giordano: "If bills are paid on time I cannot visualise 30 per cent rises. It will be important to see what provisions the Bill contains for those who have genuine difficulties in paying their bills."

Q: What of the Labour Party's views?

Brown: "I have not discovered whether they intend to tear up the Government's plans or carry on with them. The first pilot scheme for domestic gas competition starts in 1996, the second the following year. Clearly, there is an election factor."

Q: And the way forward?

Giordano: "We have said to the market that we are going to save in excess of £600 million per annum. We told the City analysts, last September, that one of our goals in the domestic gas business is to sustain the current level of profitability and cash flow. That is imperative."

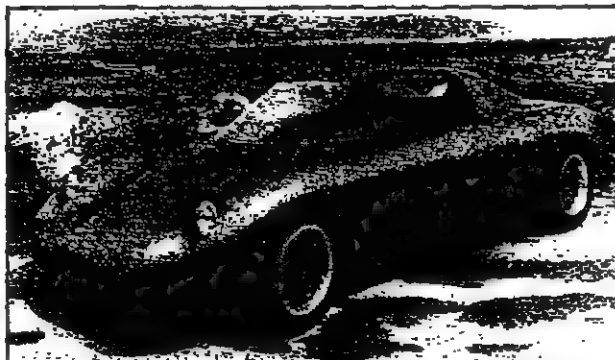
"Either we save the £600 million per annum or we close shop, because the source of that dividend is that money. So whatever we do, however we do it, we have to achieve that. We have expressed a commitment to bust our bums to raise the dividend in real terms. That is still the current dividend message."

British sportscar team seeks bold co-drivers with cash

Investors rarely get the chance to put money into a new British sportscar. It is even rarer to find one that is built — on the road, engine, wheels and all — before the developers go cap in hand for funds. But so it is with the Costin, a sportscar that takes its name from one of the UK's most famous designers.

Frank Costin, an automotive engineer, made his name applying the science of aerodynamics to vehicle design. Now 74, he has enjoyed considerable success over the years designing for Lotus, Vauxhall and Maserati, working with Stirling Moss, among others.

Five years ago, Mr Costin teamed up with Simon Garrett, a financial consultant, to form Costin Limited, with the aim of developing a new mid-engined sportscar. The prototype chassis began road-testing in 1991, and a second prototype is now on the road, powered by the award-winning Rover K series engine. Some £350,000 has been sunk into the venture. Now, the Costin is ready to roll off the production line, joining other



The Costin: off the drawing board and on the road

specialist cars, such as Morgan, Caterham and TVR.

The company is seeking £75,000 from investors under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), successor to the Business Expansion Scheme.

The plan is to build 20 cars in 1995, 50 in 1996 and 100 a year by 1997, from a basic factory in Wales. A formal offer for subscription is due to be launched in the next few weeks.

The project bears the characteristic stamp of Chris Parkinson, of Gouldens, the City law firm known for pioneer-

ing a range of British film issues under the BES. Mr Parkinson, who has helped to draw up the offer document, was executive producer of *Staggered*, the most successful BES film.

He says the EIS can provide useful funding for projects of £100,000 or less — a sum that holds few rewards for traditional venture capital firms.

"This is the sort of thing the EIS is good for — putting small amounts of money into entrepreneur-owned businesses to enhance working

capital," Mr Parkinson says. Investors in the Costin project will be invited to subscribe for a minimum of £500 each in shares. They will benefit from 20 per cent tax relief on their investment — offering a potential 60 per cent tax break when combined with rollover relief from previous BES investments. There is also the prospect of tax-free capital gains after five years.

More than 3,100 comparable cars are produced in the UK each year. The biggest seller is the TVR, with an annual output of 900 models selling for £22,000 to £29,000 each. The Caterham is next, with 700 cars priced at £14,000 to £30,000. Some 460 Morgans are made each year. The Costin, at about £20,000, is designed to fit between the Caterham and TVR.

There is always the risk that no one will buy the car. This is a high-risk investment with no guarantees. However, the fact that the Costin has already made it off the drawing board and on to the road counts heavily in its favour.

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES

Win the trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history

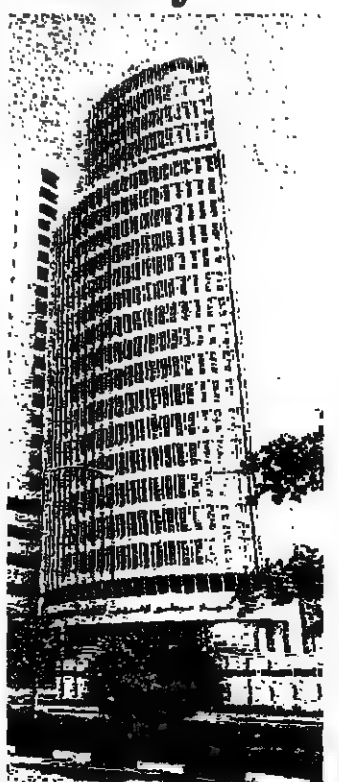
Today is day 17 of *The Times Millennium 2000*, which offers readers the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve 1999 crossing the International Dateline to both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. First prize is a 28-day world air cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in Fiji and the Cook Islands to join in the festivities. The trip takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson, Washington and Sydney. It includes helicopter sightseeing over the Fiji Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, and would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten-day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

Should you be unsuccessful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brainchild of *The Millennium Foundation*, a non profit-making charity which is organising fundraising parties for specific local charities across the world. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage gallery and fund the Kirov Ballet.

You could, for example, celebrate the new millennium in Abu Dhabi where the sun shines for 363 days of the year. The capital of the United Arab Emirates has beautiful beaches and vast, mysterious deserts where camels roam free. Your stay will be at the Hilton International, which offers panoramic views over the Gulf. The party will be an Arabian night of true luxury and splendour. The cost is £2,250 per person now, or £50 per month per person payable over five years.



TOKEN 17



To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which are appearing between December 26 and tomorrow, January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: *The Times Millennium 2000 Competition*, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal *Times* competition Rules apply. Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, which appeared last week, will appear again on tomorrow. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Line	Company	Phone Area	TE	TR	FR
71	Flux Corp	9			
72	Flux Corp	9			
132	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
133	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
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202	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
203	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
204	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
205	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
206	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5
207	Flux Corp	226	31	14	16.5

BAT to shed 1,700 US staff

By SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

MORE than 1,700 American workers will lose their jobs as a result of BAT's \$1 billion acquisition of American Tobacco. BAT's Brown and Williamson subsidiary said yesterday.

Most of the redundancies will come in field sales, where the sales team of Brown and Williamson will take over their responsibilities. Last year, Brown and Williamson slashed its sales force significantly with a redundancy programme.

BAT promised to keep production going in American Tobacco's factory in Reidsville, North Carolina, until at least 1996. Under an agreement reached with the Federal Trade Commission, Brown and Williamson was allowed to merge with American Tobacco only if it divested several cigarette brands. The Reidsville plant, employing 1,000 workers, must also be made available to prospective buyers.

BAT ruled out assimilating the American Tobacco sales force into that of Brown and Williamson, pointing out that the Brown and Williamson team stands at 1,400.

"We don't need two sales forces," said Ralph Edmondson, a spokesman for BAT. Redundant staff would receive "a comprehensive severance package, which now includes outplacement assistance", the company said.

The American Tobacco brands that BAT must sell include Monarch, Mailbox and Bull Durham. Brown and Williamson plans gradually to shift production of other American Tobacco brands to its plant in Macon, Georgia.

BAT said it was conducting a review of American Tobacco production facilities to determine the best way of integrating the operations. BAT shares rose 1p to 450p yesterday.



Peter Aikens said results benefited from contributions from Freetraders, the drinks wholesaler, and Grants of St James's, two companies acquired last year

Christmas cheer for three more high street retailers

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE stream of upbeat Christmas trading statements from British retailers continued yesterday as Storehouse, Body Shop and Lloyds Chemists reported healthy rises in sales. The only disappointment was a worse than expected performance by Sears, the Selfridges to Olympus retail group.

City analysts said they were pleased with the figures because the companies have maintained margins rather than pursued volume growth. Storehouse, the group that controls BHS and Mothercare, said it had had a "very successful Christmas". Sales in the six weeks to Christmas Eve rose 5.5 per cent and gross margins advanced by more than 1 per cent. Mothercare performed particularly well and BHS had another record year. A company spokesman said like-for-like sales were

subdued, reflecting the retailer's decision to take a number of actions that they knew would damage sales but would benefit margins. The shares fell 1p to 221p.

Body Shop, the environmentally conscious cosmetics group, announced a 5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in its British stores in the nine weeks to December 24. The company said this was in line with the stores' performance in the ten months to date.

The stores in America fared less well and like-for-like sales fell 1 per cent during the Christmas period. However, analysts said that reflected the company's strategy of opening a clutch of new stores in the same area, which erode existing stores' sales but are not included yet in the like-for-like sales figures.

The results prompted

Parmure Gordon to lift its profit forecast for the year to February 28 by £500,000 to £34 million. The shares rose 2p to 189p.

Lloyds Chemists, the pharmaceuticals and health food wholesaler and retailer, announced a 5.9 per cent rise in underlying sales at its Holland & Barrett stores and a 5.1 per cent rise in like-for-like sales by its chemist division. The drugstore saw flat underlying sales. The shares rose 5p to 304p.

Meanwhile, analysts expressed disappointment at the Christmas performance of Sears, the Selfridges-to-Olympus sports combine. The group said like-for-like sales were up 6.4 per cent for the five weeks to January 7. Liam Strong, chief executive, said: "We are pleased with sales over Christmas, particularly

after the weak trading earlier this autumn."

The City did not like the news that gross margins in the second half of the year were marginally lower than in the same period last year.

Overall its retail businesses lifted like-for-like sales by 7.4 per cent but the Freemans home shopping division saw sales fall 2.3 per cent. Selfridges, the group's flagship store, increased underlying sales by 11.2 per cent in the second half to January 7, while British Shoe sales rose 10.7 per cent.

The high street fashion chains lifted sales by 3.7 per cent although the sports and leisurewear division saw sales slide by 3.7 per cent. That reflected adverse trading conditions for the Olympus sports shops. The shares fell 4p to 101p.

Matthew Clark optimistic

By MARTIN BARROW
CITY NEWS EDITOR

MATTHEW Clark, the acquisitive drinks company, said it detects "tentative indications" of an improvement in consumer confidence, with Christmas trading in line with expectations.

Peter Aikens, chief executive, yesterday announced a rise in profits to £7.2 million before tax in the six months to October 31, from £3.4 million previously. Earnings increased to 20p a share from 14.1p and the interim dividend is lifted to 8p a share, payable on April 6, from 7.25p.

Results benefited from full contributions from Freetraders, the drinks wholesaler, and Grants of St James's, two companies acquired last year, with group turnover rising to £125.4 million from £87.6 million. Gaymer Group Europe, acquired for £105 million in October, will make a maiden contribution in the second half.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Booker to put £95m into cash-and-carry

BOOKER, the food distributor and prepared-food specialist, is to invest a total of £95 million in the distribution operations of Booker Belmont Wholesale, the cash-and-carry business, over a three-year period. Booker is to establish a single integrated network of large regional distribution centres to handle 95 per cent of the stock for its 160 outlets. This compares with 25 per cent at present, with the rest delivered by individual suppliers to each depot. The company says this is more costly and less efficient.

Booker will invest approximately £35 million, relating mainly to information technology, vehicles and fittings. The balance of £60 million relates mainly to property investment, which will largely be financed by a third party. One-off costs and asset write-downs will also be incurred over the next three years as a result of the investment, which will be charged as an exceptional item of £18 million in the 1994 accounts, partly as a result of the new investment and partly relating to earlier consolidations.

Coda drops into red

CODA GROUP, the computer company, incurred losses of £7.99 million before tax in the year to October 31, its first year as a quoted company, against profits of £3.75 million previously. The announcement clipped another 5p off the shares, which closed at 85p, compared with the issue price of 235p. On flat revenues of £23.4 million (£23.5 million), administrative expenses surged to £31.5 million from £19.7 million after restructuring of the US operations. Losses were 27.7p a share (10.6p earnings). There is again no dividend.

VW Mexico to stop work

VOLKSWAGEN of Mexico plans to halt all production at its plant in the state of Puebla for the week starting January 23 as a result of the Mexican economic crisis and shrinkage in the car market already experienced. All 13,900 employees will be asked not to show up for work and will receive only half their normal pay for that week. Volkswagen of Mexico, which produced 260,000 cars last year, including 100,000 for export, promised to fulfil all its export obligations, notably to the US and Canadian markets.

Storm damages Geest

GEEST, the fresh fruit importer, still cannot quantify the cost of damage caused by tropical storm Debbie, which struck the Windward Islands in September. Half of Geest's bananas come from the islands. Geest said: "Brokers' estimates for 1994 group results have varied markedly." It added that before the unknown exceptional items are taken into account, taxable profits were likely to be in the region of £11.5 million for the year ending December 31. The total dividend payout was likely to be maintained at 8.1p.

Good year for Hawtin

HAWTIN, the holding company, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.9 million (£2.2 million) in the year to September 30. There is a final dividend of 0.875p, making 1.15p for the year, up from 0.95p. The company said its building products, leisure and fitness businesses had all enjoyed major improvements. Its property division also did well and its textiles arm again produced more than £1 million profits. The company said that, with borrowings cut, it was well placed to make acquisitions and increase the business internally in the coming year.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report January 13 1994

Court of Appeal

Defence in use of suspect's photograph

Hellewell v Chief Constable of Derbyshire

Before Mr Justice Laws (Judgment December 21) Police who made reasonable use of a suspect's photograph for the purpose of the prevention and detection of crime had a public interest defence to any action brought against them for breach of confidence.

Mr Justice Laws held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, sitting at Leicester, allowing an application by the defendant, the Chief Constable of Derbyshire, to substitute the plaintiff, Paul Hellewell, for declaratory relief and an injunction restraining the disclosure to the public of any photograph of him taken when in custody at Long Eaton police station on May 14, 1993 when he was charged with theft and attempted theft. He was later convicted of both offences.

Mr Richard Clayton for the Chief Constable. Mr James A. Howlett for the plaintiff.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that while in custody at the police station the plaintiff had been photographed in accordance with paragraph 4.2 of Code D of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PCEA) Codes of Practice.

Traders in the shop watch scheme, following a complaint as to the level of shoplifting and harassment experienced by shopkeepers in the town, had requested police to provide photographs of individuals known to be causing particular problems, because in some shops new staff might not recognise such troublemakers and as a result fall to bar them from the premises.

Photographs, including a photograph of the plaintiff, had been copied from the police file and handed to shop watch members. The nature of the photograph, with the plaintiff's name, a number, and the date, was such that it would be tolerably clear to anyone looking at it that it was taken in police or prison custody. It was, in common parlance, a " mug shot". It would thus at least convey the information that the plaintiff was known to the police.

Guidelines were given to the effect that the photographs were not to be publicly displayed, so that only the shopkeepers or their staff might see them. However, the plaintiff had learnt that his photograph was in use and had brought proceedings.

His Lordship entertained no doubt that disclosure of a photograph might in some circumstances be actionable as a breach of confidence. However, the chief constable submitted that the statement of claim did not plead facts which could arguably suppress the police with a duty of confidence in relation to the photographs: there was no plea of a confidential relationship, nor of any notice

given by the plaintiff that the material contained in the photograph was to be held in confidence. As to the latter point, it was clear that a duty of confidence might be created simply out of the relationship between the parties, with no requirement of any express notice from confidant to confidant. And the idea that a detained suspect might formally notify the police that the photograph, just taken of him, was to be treated by them as confidential information amounted to a Gilbertian scenario only capable of existence in a lawyer's fertile mind.

In his Lordship's judgment, where the police took a photograph of a suspect at the police station in circumstances where, at least, the suspect's consent was not required, they were not by law free to make whatever use they would of the picture so obtained. That was not a public fact; it might be described, *prima facie* at least, as a piece of confidential information.

The circumstances in which the photograph was taken, where the suspect had no choice save to insist that physical force be not used upon him, imposed obligations on the police, breach of which might sound in an action at private law. Those obligations were not defined merely by the need to comply with paragraph 4.4 of Code D; indeed, they could not be, since paragraph 4.4 did not prescribe the use to

which a photograph might be put where, in accordance with its provisions, the police were not bound to destroy the picture.

In his Lordship's judgment, the use which the police might make of such a photograph was limited by their obligations to the photograph's subject as follows: they might make reasonable use of it for the purpose of the prevention and the detection of crime, the investigation of alleged offences, and the apprehension of suspects or persons unlawfully at large.

They might do so whether or not the photograph was of any person they sought to arrest, or of anyone else; the key was that they must have those and only those purposes in mind and must make no more than reasonable use of the picture in seeking to accomplish them.

The term "reasonable", as in so many areas of the law, was fluid and its application would depend on the circumstances of the particular case. It was as impossible as it was undesirable to lay down anything like a lexicon of the kinds of facts that would amount to a breach of confidence, or a reasonable use of such a picture by the police.

Where the use in question was decided upon by the honest judgment of professional police officers, that would of itself go a long way to establish its reasonableness.

Provided those bounds of principle were not oversteered, there would be an obvious and vital public interest in the use of such photographs, which the courts would uphold.

It was perhaps confusing to put the matter on the basis that "there is no confidence in inquiry"; some little difficulty had been caused in the past by the question whether the inquiry had to be proved or it was enough if it was the result only of reasonable suspicion. The better analysis was in terms of the public interest defence which was always available, where the facts supported it, against a breach of confidence claim.

Common sense and law alike dictated that the police should be subject to no legal sanctions if they made honest and reasonable use of a suspect's photograph in the fight against crime. Where the use made of such photographs lay within those bounds, the police would have a public interest defence to any action brought against them for breach of confidence.

In those circumstances the real question was not whether the statement of claim pleaded facts capable of giving rise to a cause of action for breach of confidence, but whether the chief constable had shown that if the matter went to trial he would be bound to succeed in establishing a public interest defence.

The following facts were not in contention.

1 The plaintiff was a criminal with 12 convictions, including 19 for offences of dishonesty. There was material from which, at least, the police could conclude that he had caused trouble in local shops.

2 The dissemination by the police of the photograph was limited to relation to shopkeepers in the shop watch scheme.

3 Implicitly, the police had acted, and only acted, in good faith for the prevention or detection of crime, and had done so to a limited and specific end by distributing the plaintiff's photograph only to those who had reasonable need to make use of it.

On the undisputed facts, it was plain beyond the possibility of argument that the use made by the police of the plaintiff's photograph was lawful. There was no dispute as to their good faith; the picture's dissemination was limited.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was no issue here fit to be tried. The police had acted well within the scope of such obligation as the law imposed upon them in relation to the plaintiff's photograph. What they had done was obviously and unarguably in the public interest. The plaintiff's claim would be struck out.

Solicitors: Mr David Tysoe, Mallock; Starke & Gregory, Long Eaton.

Ministry has no duty to prevent drink abuse

Barrett v Ministry of Defence

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Saville (Judgment December 21)

The Ministry of Defence was not under a duty to take reasonable care to prevent a member of its forces from drinking himself to the point of unconsciousness at one of their duty free bars.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal brought by the ministry against the decision of Judge Phelan on May 12, 1993 when he gave judgment in the sum of £160,651.16 for the plaintiff, Mrs Dawn Barrett, widow of Terence Barrett, for herself and her son, Liam, under the Fatal Accidents Act 1951 and for the benefit of the estate of her deceased husband under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934. The judge had reduced the damages of £214,201.54 by 25 per cent which he had held was the deceased's share of the responsibility for his death.

Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Mr Robert Jay for the Ministry of Defence. Mr Geoffrey Nice, QC and Mr Anthony Says Llewellyn for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that at the time of his death, the deceased was thirty years of age and a naval airman serving at a shore based establishment at the Royal Naval Air Station in Northern Norway.

Within the base there were three bars, at which duty free drink could be obtained. Drinking at the bars when off duty was one of the main recreations of personnel attached to the base.

In January 1988 the senior naval officer was Lieutenant Commander Lomax, whose attitude to the enforcement of Queen's Regulations and standing orders, in particular to excessive drinking and drunkenness, was unusually lax. As a consequence of the death of the deceased, he was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, breach of article 1810 of the regulations. That plea acknowledged that he had negligently performed the duty of actively discouraging over-indulgence in alcohol.

The Ministry of Defence's principal ground of appeal was that the judge was wrong to hold that it was under any duty to take care to see that the deceased, a mature man, did not consume so much alcohol that he became unconscious. If the deceased himself was to be treated as a responsible adult, he alone was to blame for his collapse. On that basis the judge's apportionment of liability was plainly wrong. Even if the judge's finding of that duty was in stand, the deceased ought to have been regarded as equally responsible for his own death. The

ministry did not challenge the judge's findings that it was in breach of duty to take care of the deceased once he had collapsed and it had assumed responsibility for him.

In his Lordship's judgment, the judge was wrong to equate the Queen's Regulations and standing orders with guidance given in the Highway Code or in pamphlets relating to safety in factories. The purpose of Queen's Regulations and standing orders was to preserve good order and discipline in the service and to ensure that personnel remained fit for duty and while on duty obeyed commands and off duty did not misbehave bringing the service into disrepute.

All regulations which encouraged self-discipline, if obeyed, would incidentally encourage service personnel to take greater pride in their own behaviour but in no sense were the regulations and orders intended to lay down standards or to give advice in the exercise of reasonable care for the safety of the men when off duty drinking in the bars.

In the present case, the judge posed the question whether there was a duty at law to take reasonable steps to prevent the deceased becoming unconscious through alcohol abuse. He said his conclusion that there was such a duty was founded on the fact that it was foreseeable in the environment in which the defendants grossly failed to enforce their regulations and standing orders that the deceased would succumb to heavy intoxication.

His Lordship would reverse the findings that the ministry was under a duty to take reasonable care to prevent the deceased from abusing alcohol to the extent that he did. Until the deceased collapsed, his Lordship held that the deceased was in law alone responsible for his condition.

Thereafter when the ministry assumed responsibility for him it accepted that the measures taken fell short of the standard reasonably to be expected. It did not summon medical assistance and its supervision of him was inadequate.

The final question was how far the deceased should be regarded as responsible for his death. Mr Nice argued that once the deceased had become unconscious his fault was virtually spent and the whole responsibility for his death ought to fall on the ministry, although he did not seek to disturb the judge's assessment of 25 per cent.

The immediate cause of the deceased's death was suffocation due to inhalation of vomit. The amount of alcohol he had consumed not only caused him to vomit, it deprived him of the spontaneous ability to protect his air passages after he had vomited. His fault was therefore a continuing and direct cause of his death. Moreover, his lack of self-control in his own interest caused the ministry to have to assume responsibility for him. But for his fault, it would not have had to do so. How far in such circumstances was it just and equitable to regard the deceased as the author of his misfortune?

The deceased involved the ministry in a situation in which it had to assume responsibility for his care. His Lordship considered a greater share of the blame should rest upon the deceased than on the ministry and he would reduce the amount of the damages recoverable by the plaintiff by two-thirds holding the deceased one third to blame. Accordingly the appeal would be allowed and the judgment in the sum of £160,651.16 be set aside and substituted by a sum of £71,400.51.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Stewarts.

In re T (a Minor) (Contact order)

Heald in Nottingham County. An order made by a court requiring adoptive parents of a child to permit contact between the child and her natural mother should be made not less than once a year.

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Game to make a fortune in a new career?

The popularity of computer games is leading to openings for designers, says Charles Salem. With the right touch, the rewards can be great

There is still a fortune to be made in computer games, according to John Cook. Within five years, he has plucked computer buffs from backgrounds as diverse as miners and television repairers and turned them into near millionaires through royalties on their game designs.

What does it take to be a hit designer? Surprisingly little, if the experience of Mark Mason is anything to go by. Mr Mason says: "I was working down the pit as a coalminer. Anything I could do to get me away - I'd do it. I could afford a little Atari 400 and when I wasn't down the pit, I'd be in my bedroom, playing with games."

As the software industry took off, so did the price of the games and Mr Mason found himself having to use a little imagination to construct his own games.

In 1987, he sent one of his games to Huston, a young company - which published it. Mark had a

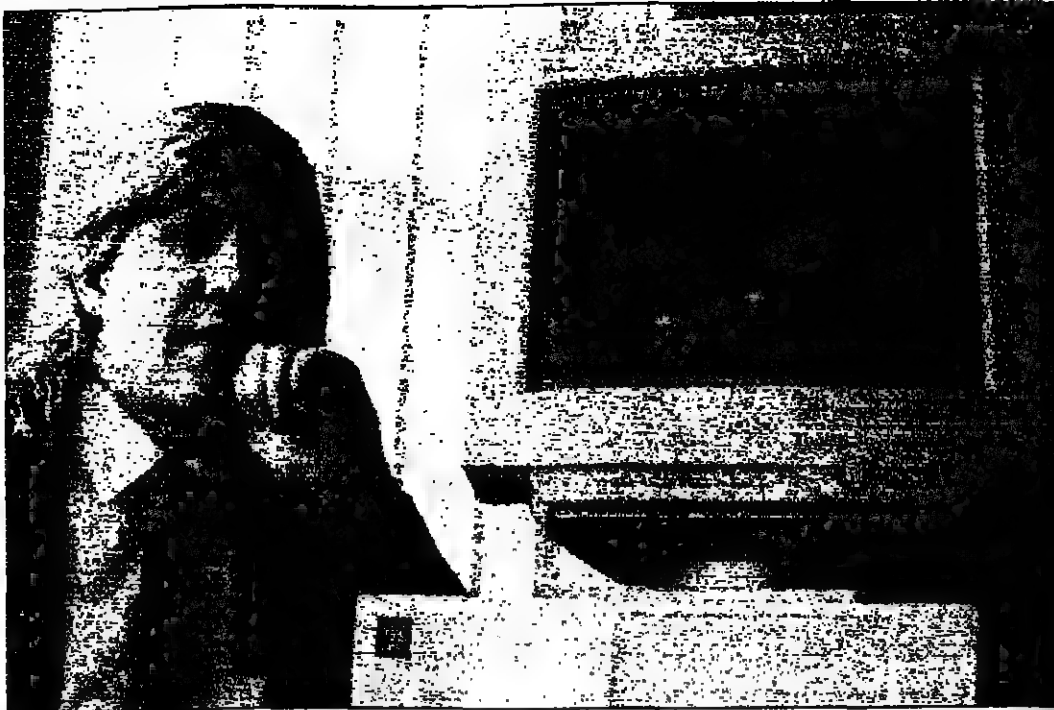
small hit on his hands. He says: "Because I had been on strike for a year, I had no choice but to leave the mining industry and try to make it as a game inventor and programmer."

"Ocean, one of the biggest publishers, persuaded me to do a computer version of a show on which the Gladiators is based," says Mr Mason. He then found himself with a game that topped the charts.

"It takes more gear to invent a game," he says. "But if you have the right game idea, you can make it in your bedroom."

Jon Ritman was a television repairer when he bought a small personal computer in case his employer ever needed computer specialists. Meanwhile, he could try to make up games.

He says: "I came up with *Namir Raiders*, which was a strategy game consisting of puzzles and mental exercises, using graphics. It is also my surname spelt back-



Mark Mason, a former miner, who started by creating computer games in his bedroom

wards. The game was not a huge hit but it was big enough for me to stop being a TV repairer and to keep writing games in my bedroom.

A string of hits followed through-

out the 1980s, starting in 1984 with *Match Day* for the Spectrum. *The Batman Game* and *Match Day 2* followed, as did a rise in his royalties.

"You can make six figures off a

game, if you get it right," Mr Ritman says. "If you have a PC, the right idea and are prepared to put the effort into inventing a proper game rather than just flash graphics and loud sound effects, the

rewards could be still there."

A group of British inventors is about to hit the market with what it hopes will be the game of 1995: intelligent games. *Sim Rainforest* combines action environmental concerns and, of course, flash graphics and loud sound effects. Matthew Stibbe, a history graduate, leads the group. The game is a culmination of nights at college and days at the kitchen table.

For the uninitiated, the term "sim game" is an abbreviation of simulation. A player decides how the game is to progress or not. Sim games are as much a test of intelligence and strategy as of manual dexterity and the ability to "explode" any passing gremlin.

The group used a rainforest expert to provide background about rainforests. A mathematical model of the elements of a forest ecosystem was built.

Mr Stibbe insists that such a step is one of the most important parts of a game design, especially in the initial stages. "It forms part of a background document, which serves as the 'recipe' for the programmer," he explains. "It is what so much of the next stages in

design are based on. Designers are trying to give players two kinds of games. On the one hand you have the sim-and-strategy product, on the other, games with a violence and destruction theme.

"Our game was a sim game," says Mr Stibbe. "so we didn't necessarily have a fixed end to the gameplay. But we had to make sure it was unique. It had to have something no other sim game had."

What seems to be clear is that extensive research is needed for new games. In the case of *Sim Rainforest*, not a line of code was written for between five and six months after the initial planning stages were completed and agreed.

As the agent John Cook is keen to point out, a successful game can change its creator's life overnight. "I look after these inventors," he says, "and I started off painting sewage farms. So there is hope for game lovers everywhere."

But he is points out that having the idea is not enough. "The key is to make sure the game plays well. Only someone with a talent for that particular skill will make it. The rest will just be dreaming."

Having an idea is not enough: the game must 'play' well

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INFOTECH

Civilian cars could be upgraded with technology from the Defence Research Agency, Alan Jabez reports

Military research for sale

The sight of armoured personnel carriers travelling up the high street is unlikely, but the Defence Research Agency (DRA), Britain's leading defence research and technology establishment, is moving into civilian transport.

"We have already worked with companies on aerodynamics, while the same technology which was used to reduce external noise on submarines is now being considered for underground trains," Andy Stimpson, the man spearheading the move, says.

Mr Stimpson says that the DRA is the largest research organisation of its kind in Europe, with a gallery of test tracks, wind tunnels, climatic chambers and specialist aviation and marine test facilities. It also has more than 4,000 scientists and engineers working in transport-related projects at sites across Britain. With a combined annual turnover of more than £700 million, its scale dwarfs the Transport Research Laboratory (annual turnover less than £35 million), the Government's primary civilian transport research centre.

The Ministry of Defence, the DRA's paymaster, is encouraging the new openness. "Our primary aim is to support British firms," Mr

Stimpson says, although the DRA will seek co-operation from overseas if there is no British funding.

The agency has experience of civilian technology — this includes involvement in the development of Concorde, the UK Air Traffic Management System and the English Channel radar navigation system — as well as inventing liquid crystal displays, which are now standard in almost every Japanese-made electrical item.

Although the latest military robotic vehicles may be inappropriate for the public highway, electronics in military vehicles are now being copied by car manufacturers. "We are now seeing the development of a new industry in vehicle electronics (electronics in vehicles) in the same way that avionics (electronics in aircraft) was established a number of years ago," Chris Hepden, the business support manager in the Fighting Vehicles and Systems division, says.

Typically the cars of the future will have many on-board sensors to assist the driver — from sensing adverse weather, to monitoring the performance of the driver. In the military, such sensors are already used in fighter planes and advanced ground-based vehicles.

Some of the DRA's advanced



A futuristic driver's view, which could eventually be aided by present-day defence research

vehicle technologies could support a range of civilian applications. For instance, as part of the VERDI 2 project (Vehicle Electronics Research Defence Initiative), a Warrior armoured personnel carrier has been transformed into one of the most advanced ground-based vehicles in the world.

On board are advanced day and night-sensing devices, an advanced navigation system, remotely controlled operations, and a front "windscreen" which has been replaced by three video cameras which display the view ahead of the vehicle on a series of monitors. In addition, two revolving cameras on a telescopic pole which protrudes out of the top of the vehicle, provide

a 360 degrees view of the surrounding environment.

Although such a vehicle is a world removed from an urban commuter car, Mr Hepden believes vehicles with video cameras and periscope-type visual aids instead of windscreens, could appeal to the construction, mining and logging industries.

Vehicle identification is another area in which the agency's expertise could have direct use in the commercial world. One obvious development is a computer processing system which is able to detect the position of all types of moving objects.

Dr John Savage says it was primarily developed to monitor

approaching aircraft, but it could also be used for a range of traffic surveillance purposes. He has already used the software with pictures from a normal video camera above the M3 motorway to calculate the speed of individual cars on the road in "real-time".

The same software can also be used at ground level — perhaps from a stationary or slow-moving vehicle. In fact, DRA staff have already discussed the idea of having small robotic vehicles travelling along the hard shoulder of motorways with a variety of video cameras and other sensors on board detecting problems on the carriageway — such as oil spillages or scattered debris.

Pick and mix

New software will allow you to put together your own PC applications

The more popular the personal computer becomes, the more limited the choice of software we seem to be able to use on it. Five years ago, more than 20 big name packages vied for your money. Today, the list is virtually reduced to one single publisher, Microsoft, with only two serious rivals, Lotus and Word Perfect, lagging far behind.

Industry consolidation, the rise of Microsoft Windows, and the growing domination of office "suites" — bundles of big applications at reduced prices — have put all but the big and brave out of the mainstream software business.

All this may be about to change. A new kind of software technology, which will allow you to mix and match features according to your tastes and needs, will make its debut this year.

As usual, the software business has adopted some awful names for what is a very simple idea. "Component software" essentially means that companies take their applications and break them down into their most important parts, then sell them separately.

So if you like the way Microsoft Word lets you type, but prefer Word Perfect's spelling checker, you buy one chunk from one application and the second from its rival. The technology should allow smaller companies to get back into desktop applications by opening up markets for specialist tools, such as spelling libraries for doctors or add-on parts that will check the language of a legal document.

It will also mean that applications will be able to run more efficiently, since they will no longer be devoting precious resources to

components you may never need, such as complex formatting features which are now standard on mainstream word processing.

What component software needs, however, is a core standard that lets application parts from rival companies talk to each other. Two software standards are emerging, one, called OLE2 from Microsoft, and a second, supported by a broad consortium including IBM, Apple, Lotus and Word Perfect, known as Open Doc. Both make much of their "openness", though Microsoft has made it clear that it has no intention of supporting Open Doc over its own OLE standard.

This may not matter. Claris, the Apple-owned software company, has what looks like a component application in its Claris Works package. This has different modules, for word processing, spreadsheets and databases, which can all work on the same page, though at the moment it does not accept components from other publishers.

Larry Slotnick, the company's vice-president of product development, says that Claris is committed to component software in principle, for both Open Doc and the rival OLE, and that, for the user, the differences may be academic. Making software that can fit between the two standards is going to be an economic prerequisite, he feels, and technically feasible.

A bigger problem is how to turn in a profit from the change. Mr Slotnick thinks that application "chunks" may be sold for a few pounds through high street stores, posing immense financial questions for software giants.

DAVID HEWSON

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Group IT Consultant

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Uses of colourful language

When it comes to problems with reading and writing, up to one in ten people are simply failing to make the right connections. This is the theory of Jack Denner, 76, a former EMI development engineer who has developed a computer program he says is helping even those with the most acute learning difficulties.

Mr Denner's answer to dyslexia, or word blindness, has been to devise the Indirect Learning Method (ILM), a multimedia blend of computer speak and colour-coded responses, which has put more than 800 users back in touch with the written word.

He says the secret lies in a concept called connectionism which is at the heart of all learning. While most of us learn to read and write by relating symbols to what we see and hear, this is not enough for dyslexics who find it hard to sequence and remember words. Instead, this group of people — one with more than its fair share of genius — needs to learn by a more practical route which is where the computer comes into its own.

A background in research has, Mr Denner says, given him the diagnostic skills to think like dyslexics. "As in research, dyslexics have to start making the connections which will help them to learn in other ways."

Six years ago, at an age when most of us would dream of retirement, he and his wife decided to put these ideas to the test. They founded the Starcross Educational Research Group, complete with a committee of educational psychologists and remedial teachers to ensure their ideas were on the right lines. The result has been the development of a computer-based system of learning and support which the Denners, who are based at Newton Abbott in Devon, say is an important breakthrough in the treatment of dyslexia.

The system centres around an adapted 486 computer fitted



Teaching by computer: Jack Denner and his wife Rosemary

A new program will help dyslexics
to make sense of the written word

with a purpose-built speech board, designed by the Denner's son Michael, and loaded with software containing a selection from more than 500 lesson programs written by Mr Denner. Also supplied as part of the package is a microphone, speakers and a built-in modem, allowing user groups to receive as much online support and additional lesson material as they need. The whole system, including training and support sells for £3,500.

Children and adults learn by following a course of lessons which allow them to see letters and words created by

the computer at the same time as hearing them spoken. They can then repeat the words themselves, type them on to the screen and watch as they are fitted into appropriate sentences. All the time, the computer, a soothing recording of Mrs Denner's voice, encourages and acknowledges their progress.

Dr J. Fyfield, one of the educational psychologists asked to validate the system, says that "the talking computer" itself was a motivator since it had patience and was not threatening. Students were not in the least overawed by the technology. Up to 200 are

using the system as part of self help groups.

"It's very much a learning, rather than a teaching, thing," says Sally Rowlands who heads a group at Launceston in Cornwall. Her son, Simon, "virtually couldn't read a word" when, aged seven, he started with ILM. Five years later, his reading and writing are up to scratch and Ms Rowlands is using the system to help others.

Colour and sound, she believes, are the key elements to the system's success. What is more, the letters on the keyboard are coded in vertical strips of colour, a feature Ms Rowlands says "allows people to learn with their fingers as well as their minds". They haven't got to keep looking down at the keyboard and they can begin to concentrate all their efforts on what is coming up on to the screen.

The education establishment is sceptical about cure-all solutions for a disability which has only come to be properly recognised in the past 20 years. "We see technology as an aid to teaching but not something which should replace the pupil-teacher relationship," says Michael Nazam, an officer at the Dyslexia Institute, an educational charity which works with schools and families in all parts of Britain.

Three years ago, the institute launched the National Laptop Project which has purchased more than 100 personal computers and printers for use by dyslexic children in school. In their efforts to help dyslexics make up ground outside school, disciples of the ILM are winning support and referrals from the experts. Philip Macmillan, an Exeter-based educational psychologist, says: "The rate of improvement typically ranges from two to four times that of other 'normal systems'." The upshot, he notes, can be a more self-confident and well-adjusted individual.

NICK COTTAM

THE GREAT BRITISH



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PUBLISHING page 32

A giant advance for writers, or for one writer? Ethics of the Amis deal considered

ARTS

POP page 33

The unlikely punk survivors: Siouxsie and the Banshees bring out a romantic new album

Building on a lottery windfall

Which architects will be the big winners when the cash starts flowing in from Britain's gambling fever? Marcus Binney investigates

Architects have struck gold. Suddenly the most embattled of Britain's professions is confronted with a bonanza of commissions that should provide spectacular scope for adventurous and unusual design.

The astonishing fact is that the National Lottery could provide up to £1 billion of new architectural work each year. At the end of the first seven weeks, Camelot paid a total of £96.5 million into the bank accounts of the five good causes — arts, sports, heritage, charities and the Millennium Fund — where it is now accumulating interest at prime rates. Each should have £150 million to spend in 1995. Indeed, the Millennium Fund alone estimates it will have £12 billion over the next six years, and this is still a cautious £400 million below the Camelot estimate.

Charities, of course, will not be putting money in architects' pockets. But architects stand to benefit from the other good causes, because the main emphasis is on capital projects: spanning new buildings or well-restored and adapted old ones. Applicants will be expected to contribute money from other sources, thus doubling the funds available.

So who is applying? A spokesman for the Millennium Fund says: "We've had proposals for a national science centre at Farnborough, a permanent home for the Edinburgh Festival, a Gaelic centre on Skye. The Imperial War Museum wants to move part of its collection to Hartlepool. There are plans for fountains, sun dials, a new church and countless village and community halls." The Arts Council fund, meanwhile, will support theatres, opera houses, dance spaces, concert halls and art galleries.

The Sports Council places the same emphasis on buildings. Geraint John explains: "At one end there are proposals like the new national stadium for Manchester. At the other, simple changing rooms for small clubs, indoor facilities for judo and table tennis, and in between gymnasiums and swimming pools."

The initial emphasis, says John, will be on participation, not provision for

spectators. "We want to improve the quality of sports buildings across the nation. In the past, for obvious reasons, the tendency was to produce a lot of low-cost buildings. Now we have the chance to provide better, well-designed buildings which will be easier to maintain." So far the Sports Council has received 11,000 inquiries.

Many people are under the impression that the lottery money has already been spent several times over. The popular misconception is that between them, the British Museum, the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, the South Kensington museums, the Tate's Bankside project and the South Bank will swallow up the Millennium Fund.

There are plans for fountains, sun dials, a church...

It is true that the Millennium Fund is planning to spend half its money on a dozen major capital projects across the UK — the landmarks of the 21st century. That makes a staggering £50 million per project. But the Royal Opera House and the South Bank are applying to the Arts Council, not the Millennium Fund, and the British Museum to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This leaves space for 69 projects on the scale of the proposed Cardiff Opera House all round the country. The most ambitious yet floated is Magnus Linklater's scheme to put a roof over Waverley station in Edinburgh, one of the city's great eyesores, with a new "New Tower" between the existing old and new towers. Newcastle has plans for a millennium boulevard. Leeds talks of a giant gate over the motorway as it enters the city.

Below this level, the Millennium Fund will be supporting a host of projects of more local significance, with contributions of between £100,000 and £5 million. Here is a real opportunity for genuine eccentricity: for a new range of town and country towers and follies, for instance. Not all architecture has to possess a puritanical utilitarianism.

First in the queue for this sort of project is the architect Ian Ritchie, with a scheme for a £21 million Meridian Cosmopolis at Greenwich (he is asking the Millennium Fund for £15 million). This is a spectacular 360-



degree version of the planetarium, inside a giant globe.

Another wild card is Will Alsop's proposal to build a new ICA gallery out across the Thames on the pillars of old Blackfriars railway bridge.

Sceptics believe that the big projects will go to a handful of architectural knights. Foster has the British Museum and South Kensington; Rogers the South Bank. But both are likely to decline further large projects, since they would be competing with themselves and reducing their existing clients' chances of a successful bid.

The big difference today is that architecture is no longer dominated by big commercial practices, as it was in the Sixties and Seventies. Talent is winning out, thanks to the competition system in Europe where a host of young British architects have won commissions.

Rory Coonan, of the Arts Council, who helped to shape the lottery criteria, says: "We are determined to put an end to the golf club syndrome, by which an architect is chosen on the basis of a round of drinks at a bar." All the criteria stress the need for good design. The question is, who decides what good design is?

The dominant style in British architecture today is high-tech — all glass walls and soaring steel roofs. The lottery offers the opportunity to widen

the choice, and a chance for architects outside London to get the limelight as well as the jobs.

For a really striking landmark, go to John Outram, designer of the exotic new pumping station on the Isle of Dogs and of Britain's most modern house, for the Rausing family in Sussex. Or try Nigel Coates, best known for his shops and nightclubs.

If you want a landmark for the 20th century there is Future Systems, whose space-age designs have until now been too far ahead of their time to build. But with the super-sophistication of modern British engineering they are becoming practical. One of the most exciting schemes of this kind is the millennium tower proposed for Glasgow. Designed by Richard Horden, architect of the new grandstand at Epsom, this will orientate itself according to the prevailing wind.

For a more traditional approach there is the elegant simplicity of Demetri Porphyrios, or the Palladian and Regency perfection of Quinlan Terry and John Simpson. A wave of younger architects including James Goss and Liam O'Connor also believe in the virtues of classical proportion and traditional materials.

The lottery offers the best-ever chance for architects to change their public image. There has never been a time when the adventurous has had a better chance of being built.

CONCERTS: Ambitious opera; new music for string octet

Fill in the spaces

CBSO/Elder
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

IN EXTENDING his experience and his reputation beyond the opera house Mark Elder's concerts as Chief Guest Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra have been particularly important. Whatever he has wanted to do, it seems, no matter how extravagant — even Mahler's Eighth Symphony — he has had the resources to carry it out. And the bigger the work, the more convincing the interpretation.

It was a dubiously wise strategy on his part, however, to bring opera to Symphony Hall by conducting the CBSO in a concert performance of Puccini's *Il Tabarro*. It was not an unrewarding experience — far from it. But that was the problem: Elder's authority in the second half of the concert was so obvious and effective that it made his Ravel and his Delius in the first half seem weak in comparison.

The transition between the orchestral and the operatic repertoire — from *Paris Song of a Great City* to *Il Tabarro* — was neatly made.

Ravel's *Alborada del Gracioso* was superfluous not so much because it didn't fit in with the Parisian theme as because Elder's account of it was lacking in idiomatic presence and, in the central

serenade, in characterisation. All the notes were there, if imperfectly articulated in the brass from time to time, but there was nothing between and around them but blank spaces.



Mark Elder: taking opera to Symphony Hall

The performance of the Delius score did create some atmosphere while producing variously poetic reactions in an orchestra apparently not totally convinced of the composer's inspiration here. But when the lights went up on the Seine as Puccini conceived it, the reality of the scene was uncanny. This was before the entry of any of the voices and before the unfolding of any element of the story. Although it cannot be true that Mark Elder needs the stimulus of a dramatic situation to set his imagination working, it apparently helps.

There is a stimulus, too, in work with a team of singers, particularly the one assembled on this occasion. The tenor originally appointed to the clandestine-lover role of Luigi was indisposed but Emil Ivanov deputised for him most lyrically and, as the object of his affections, Giordana, Olga Romanko, sang passionately if a little indiscriminately in matters of pitch. Philip Joll was impressively angry as her jealous husband and, in the passer-by role of Frugola, Anne-Marie Owens introduced a welcome and colourful touch of what used to be known as vulgarity.

GERALD LARNER

Nice is no compliment

ASMF Chamber
Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

LAST week I chanced to hear John Mortimer talking about how very nice the Prime Minister had been to him in a social context. He was not delivering a compliment. Neither am I when I write that the Australian composer Ross Edwards's string octet *Veni Creator Spiritus*, given its UK premiere by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble last Tuesday, was also very nice.

My objection to this pair of movements is not based on the fact that they are both determinedly tonal, cast in an outdated language not dissimilar to that of Vaughan Williams. It is that the work seems to wallow in that very fact. For Edwards the evolution of music for most of this century might

not have happened. The world is comfortable and nothing disturbs him, save the rustling of insects (none of which bite), romanticised resonances from the past (dominated by the hymn-chant on which the whole work is based), and, in the second movement, a dance which recalls earlier Tippett without his angular tartness. But that, you might argue, is a good thing when so much of what we hear today sounds so complicated and obscure. Nonsense. There is a disturbing tendency nowadays to prize that which does

not challenge us in contemporary music. Easy sounds are what sell records and occupy our backgrounds. Music is far more important than that, and surely has some duty to reflect a condition other than the cosy middle-class values which this piece seems to champion.

But he writes with sure craftsmanship and self-confidence, and here the players of the ASMF Chamber Ensemble delivered it with the right lushness. They gave a highly polished performance of Mozart's D major String Quintet, K 593; to end it there was a deeply satisfying reading of Brahms's Sextet in B flat, Op 18, all ripeness and substance.

STEPHEN PETTIT

THEATRE: Canadian drama offers love by moonlight

Beyond the sturdy front door and the rocker motionless on the porch of Michael Taylor's set a huge pale semicircle breathes the horizon. It looks as if it must be the moon of the tide, and some of the time it could be, but at other times pinpoints of light shine from its misty depths and it becomes a panorama of the night sky.

The stars are shining down on Coley's Point, a small Newfoundland community 100 miles from St John's, where 17-year-old Mary Snow is in service to a local M.P. She has learnt about the stars from her schoolteacher fiancé, whom we never see, but a year ago she had thought that young Jacob Mercer loved her. He left abruptly for Toronto and has never written. Tonight she hears him singing on the road and a moment later he is at the porch, carrying a battered suitcase but sporting a fancy hat; evidently expecting to resume the interrupted romance. But Mary is a shrewd, passionate young woman, deeply offended by his departure.

David French's play is one of four that explore the lives of these characters from 1926, the

Stars in their eyes

Salt-Water Moon
Attic, SW19

time of *Salt-Water Moon*, forward to the 1960s. This one was written in 1984 but the first of his plays was produced in 1972. All have been successfully staged in Canada, along with other plays outside the sequence, but this production by Stage One Theatre Company is his first work to be seen in this country, and arrives in Wimbledon after a tour of Britain and Ireland.

It is an attractive piece, especially in the character it draws of Mary, luminously played by Nicola Stephenson. In her first role on the London stage. Her previous work has mainly been on television where, in *Brookside*, she was on the receiving side of the first

prime-time lesbian kiss. From the moment when Daniel Copeland's Jacob comes to stand behind her, ostensibly to be shown the stars, her longing for him is evident, struggling against her wounded pride and her desire for a practical marriage. Her long speech describing the misery her sister undergoes at her orphanage is shot through with a trembling anger before which Jacob can only be silent. But elsewhere her responses zigzag between a brave banter and reluctantly admitted affection, her eyes now flickering nervously, now flashing fire.

French is softer with the character of Jacob, allowing him to escape tough questions and rely on anger to express the energy of his feelings. Copeland discovers the streak of sadism in his character, hinting at the tyrant he will later, it seems, become. The play is lucidly directed by Richard Osborne and I hope we shall see other plays in the sequence. It is reassuring to learn that the Canadian scene is not an urban hell of desperate sex, serial killers and shopping mall angst.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Nicola Stephenson as Mary, and Daniel Copeland as the wanderer, Jacob, who tries to woo her back

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF BRITAIN.

Fairfax

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3

An advance taken amiss

Nicolette Jones on the implications for the publishing world of HarperCollins's new £500,000 investment

Poor little rich Martin Amis. HarperCollins has forked out close to the £500,000 he asked for his new novel, *The Information*, co-edited by his American agent Andrew Wylie. Amis has his lot, and some will say, has confirmed his worth. But others will use it against him. The story will henceforth become a part of his reputation, ammunition for detractors. Is a reputation for avarice worth the money?

Amis's price tag on his own talent was not in fact unreasonable. Commercially, he had a nerve — given that, on the basis of sales of his previous books, *The Information* is unlikely to earn back its advance. But as HarperCollins' bid proves, publishers are prepared to pay for the kinds of an exceptional writer on their list.

And they may even make money. *The Information* may not sell enough copies to earn back £500,000 through the ten per cent of the cover price that is normally the author's share, but sales may generate enough cash to recoup a large amount. As one agent explained it: "It is sometimes possible for a publisher to write off about half an advance and still make a profit."

If a top footballer can be worth £7 million for his footballer's and his ability to draw a crowd, Amis can surely make similar claims. At least he has the footwork. It is just that, in literature, those with the greatest skill don't always (or even often) command the highest rewards.

Nicolette Jones on the implications for the publishing world of HarperCollins's new £500,000 investment



Amis: will he find that critics review the financial deal, rather than the book itself?

Amis's stature. Publishers do their sums on the basis of a track record, when they know what an author has sold. *Unknowns* can be hyped to the skies.

Amis, however, has made a case for putting a value on skill, which publishers rarely venture to do. As Patrick Janson-Smith of Transworld (which made an unsuccessful bid for Amis's book), says: "We have plenty of authors who are worth more than they

are paid. It doesn't mean we don't love them, but we have to look at the market." Amis has achieved financial recognition for a different kind of work. Amis, therefore, does society a service. Cash apart, it is probably to himself that Amis has done the greatest disservice. One agent predicts that the book won't "earn out or earn up": pay off the advance or justify more money next time. This makes Amis's career more precarious in the long term.

ters that money is not always the main consideration in choosing a publisher. Publishers at large disavowed the fact that Amis bypassed his respected agent, Pat Kavanagh, and brought in Wylie. "Why should he be able to achieve anything Pat couldn't?" was the refrain, and there is bound to be lingering resentment of such behaviour.

Amis is also, against it with the public and the media. The timing of his request was unfortunate, perhaps, because even some admirers of his talent felt a moral outrage that he should earn so much just now. Put bluntly, they didn't want a chap who had recently left his wife and children for another woman to enjoy such rewards. This personal criticism is implicit, for instance, in A.S. Byatt's remarks.

Amis's unfair, there is always a bad reaction when literary writers express interest in cash. Jim Crace, whose latest publishing deal has widely and quite erroneously been compared to Amis's, complains about this. Crace, incidentally, was offered £400,000 for world rights in three books over five years. A substantial chunk went retrospectively to pay back his previous publisher for rights already bought. Crace will earn nothing more from foreign rights, film rights or a serialisation, and what's left puts him on a reasonable but not immoderate salary. Amis, by contrast, sold British rights alone: the rest is yet to come.

Crace points out that the bestseller lists are full of writers who earn more than £500,000 a book, and who make "no contribution to literature". But he continues: "Writers are not allowed to be serious and greedy. They can only be flippant and greedy." Serious writers, he says, "occupy moral ground" and therefore have to live in the public perception, like clergymen, beyond reproach.

Amis faces a final hazard. When *The Information* is published, he will probably not be the first high-earning writer to find that his advance is being reviewed. Instead of his book, critics may work out their resentment in their supposedly objective assessments. It is ironic, given that *The Information* is all about literary jealousy, "I wouldn't have taken the risk with a book on that subject," says Crace. "The people who have already displayed the feelings that the book is about are also going to be the ones to respond to it." Perhaps even Amis can't buy love.

LONDON

OTELLO: The Royal Opera's latest revival of Verdi's masterpiece production opens tonight with a top-notch cast. Dennis O'Neil takes on the Moor for the first time. Bruna Pissano is Desdemona and Sergio Lellone is Iago. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm (S).

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: The annual celebration of film opens with a line-up of films from what looks like a fascinating production of *Chorizo* (Spain), Sionberg's dream-like drama of corruption and fear. Followed by Sweden's *Mannekalten* with top-notch actors and a superb production. Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (01-528 8800). Tomorrow, 10pm.

INTERVIEW WITH THE BESS: The BBC has mounted up a terrific line-up of colour and ensemble for its three-day festival devoted to rehabilitating the composer who once ranked alongside Stravinsky, Scriabin and Bartók. Andrew Davis, Ian Poulton and Mark Stenz conduct. Barbican, St. Paul's, EC2 (01-438 8851). Tonight, 7.30pm, and throughout the week-end (S).

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE: First Hawthorne among the celebrated Lord Clarendon but his direction provokes and dismisses the play. Some clever supporting performances. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Performance cancelled Jan 16 and 17.

THE DANCE OF DEATH: Rare stage appearance by John Neville as Shakespeare's ill-fated husband, Hamlet. Gemma Jones playing his comparably ludicrous wife. Peter Sarsgaard directs. Almeida, Argyll St, W1 (01-359 4500). Now previewing, 8pm, opens Jan 17, 7pm, until Jan 21.

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

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LONDON GALLERIES

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THEATRE

ADOLPH
"ANDERSON'S THEATRE"
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Tonight 7.30pm. Tickets £10-15.

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ADOLPH<

POP ON FRIDAY: Upwardly mobile tips... punks gently reformed... and a case of feet in both camps

How to scam your way to the top

There are only two routes to success in the pop business
and one of those is a bit too much like hard work

At about the same age that boys start to forget to wash, they begin to harbour increasingly feverish fantasies about being in a band. Nothing constructive ever comes from these fantasies. Generally, the biggest effort made towards a traffic island, some way out into the suburbs, swinging from four-litre bottles of cider with a couple of equally tatty mares, and rambling on about "The Music Business" and "getting our act together" until one starts to stagger around, play some air-guitar, fall over, and gently roll down the bank, whereupon his head hits the tarmac, in the path of an oncoming bus.

In this way, natural selection ensures that the chances of Greater Pondlife entering the Glittering Citadel of Pop are still slim. There are only two ways of doing it — and neither of those is recording a brilliant demo-tape (four

tracks) and sending it off to record companies with "enclosed (bag and photo (and a glossy)", as is generally recommended in books on "Making it Big in the Music Industry". Only Tears for Fears got a deal this way, and who would want to sound like them? So here, courtesy of your caring, sharing newspaper, are those two only ways of Making it in the Music Business.

1) The Difficult, Authentic Way. Only really for those who actively enjoy the smell of Transit vans, who thrive on a diet of lukewarm lager (with cigarette ends dropped in it) and chips, and gain a feeling



CAITLIN MORAN

of security by falling asleep with the drummer's foot in your mouth, with Doc Martin still attached, due to lack of spide. The Difficult, Authentic Way entails touring endlessly for at least seven years — spending your life on motorways trying to find the leg-endary Rayleigh Pink venue with the aid of a lighted match and a 1963 A-Z.

Bands of Celtic, Liverpoolian and Mancunian origin tend to opt for this method of fame, as they are generally from Catholic families. Catholic equals 16 brothers and sisters and several million aunts and uncles, so these

bands already have a head start in the Getting an Audience stakes.

Also, Catholic aunts make marvellous roadies. There is nothing like bringing up eight children during the Blitz on nothing but half a pound of dripping to tune up those amp-carrying muscled. Bands that have done it the Hard, Authentic Way: Doggy, James, The Wanderlust, Shed Seven, The Beatles.

2) The Scam on Tourist Way. Scams are great. Scams are what make pop music exciting. Scams are things your parents don't understand. Scams look stupid in retro-

spect — but, hell, pop music isn't about retrospection. Last time I looked, rock music was about Sex! Love! Having A Fag! Wearing Clothes That Leave You Vulnerable To Chill Winds! And Lots Of Capital Letters!

Scams are, generally, very easy to go about. Music journalists are the target, and music journalists lead very dull lives. These days, if a band does anything apart from play gigs, record albums and release albums, it's considered a scam, and bored music journalists will pounce on it.

Famous scams of the past

include: everything the Sex Pistols ever did; the Stone Roses only giving one interview with their new album, to The Big Issue; the Manic Street Preachers vowing in their first interviews that they would split up after their first album, and then not doing so at any point in the intervening three years; and one record company, who shall remain anonymous, taking seven important music journalists on a "coke and snoker" to Derby around the time of one of their artists' comeback albums — which, oddly enough, was voted Album of the Year some months later.

One of 1993's biggest bands, Oasis, got signed as the direct result of an unwitting scam. The (at that time) unknown Oasis were playing seventh on the bill in Glasgow when they heard that Creation Records' supremo Alan McGee was in the building. Ten minutes later, they were informed that they couldn't play that night, as the rest of the bands were running behind time. So the ever-resourceful Mancunians entered into a, ahem, physical exchange of views with the promoter, and threatened to set fire to the building if they weren't allowed to play. Alan McGee was so impressed with their set, and their bravado, that he jumped up on stage and offered them a deal on the spot.

If you are in a band at the

moment, and hungering for a heavy of lovely cheque-book waving record company people, go about it the Scam Way. Find music journalists at gigs, and become their friend. Most music journalists are grateful for anyone who comes up to them who isn't either someone that they slugged off in print last week, or alternatively a bouncer. They will probably be pathetically glad that someone is being kind to them.

Once you have a couple of hacks in your pocket, record a couple of demos, invite your journo friend to a pre-selected venue, and do something "outrageous" — setting fire to orphans in a public place usually suffices — and distribute the demo tapes to the onlookers. Then wait for those offers to roll in. And when you do eventually own Barbados, remember who told you how to do it first. Me.

The taming of the Siouxs

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair on a transformed punk band, and more emotional catharsis from Kristin Hersh

SIOUXSIE & THE BANISHEES

The Rapture

(Wunderland/Polydor 523725) NO FUTURE! That was the slogan of the punk generation in 1976. And they weren't too keen on the past either. Such dinosaurs as Queen, Rod Stewart and Pink Floyd — some of whom had been around for as long as ten years, had outstayed their welcome and were to be put to the sword.

Imagine, then, the consternation of a time-traveller arriving at the Shepherd's Bush Empire a full 18 years later in November 1994, there to find playing on consecutive nights Elvis Costello and the Attractions and the Stranglers, while posters on nearby walls advertised shows by the Damned and Ian Dury and the Blockheads.

But of all the unlikely long-runners from the heyday of punk, Siouxsie & the Banshees have effected the most dramatic transformation, while somehow emerging with their dignity intact. From their shambling first performance, as Siouxsie and the Banshees at the 100 Club Punk Festival in September 1976, to the graceful sophistication of their new album, *The Rapture*, they have somehow kept abreast of the developments while resisting the temptation to be drawn too far into the whirlpool of fashion at any given time. Siouxsie's youthful anger has gradually given way to an aloof sense of authority, but a purposeful undercurrent of menace persists.

The Rapture begins with the carefree lilt of "O Baby", one of the most upbeat songs they have ever attempted. Siouxsie sounds almost kitchy, while Budgie, as on many of the tracks, elects to play with brushes, bringing a delicate finesse to his locomotive drum patterns. It is the best of five numbers on the album produced by John Cale, all of them at the gentle or jaunty end of the Banshees' musical spectrum, which seems somewhat surprising, given the ex-Velvet Underground man's past associations with works of matchless gloom.

But here it is the band's own productions which conjure a generally darker mood and yield the most

impressive results. Siouxsie's voice describes odd, swooping arcs in the chorus of "Sick Child", one of many songs enriched by Martin McCarrick's doleful cello parts. And the old fires are vigorously restoked on "Not Forgotten", with Budgie's thunderous tom-tom, tattoo shoring up a typical Siouxsie performance, full of sensual threat. Best of all is the 11-minute title track, which finds Siouxsie at her most majestic, picking her way through swathes of echoing, gothic harmonies and an intricate string-section arrangement with vaguely Middle Eastern leanings.

Age may have worn away the more violent extremes, but the Banshees are a group that can still put on a magical mystery tour with an unsettling edge.

THROWING MUSES

University

(MAD CAD 302)

HAVING extended her appeal way beyond expectations with last year's acoustic solo album, *Hips And Makers*, Kristin Hersh returns to the Throwing Muses fold for *University*, another burst of emotional catharsis set to music.

Combining the aesthetics of the wendy-house with those of the haunted castle, her lyrics tread a fine line between childlike innocence and neurotic imbalance. "My head is filled with flowers and I'm dressed in shiny gold/Keep an eye on me, I shimmer on horizons," she sings in "Shimmer", a punchy rocker that wouldn't sound out of place on a Pkies album.

In interviews Hersh insists that she doesn't so much write her songs as simply catch hold of them when they pop out, and sometimes that is how it sounds. The title track is an eerie instrumental interlude, punctuated by ghostly shouts and shrieks supplied by her son Dylan, among others, while "Surf Cowboy", although a fine riff, is likewise more of a snippet than a song.

But when she goes the distance with an idea, as with the dense, hypnotic riff of "Flood" or the crystalline guitar swirl of "Snakeface", her strange, haunting

songs echo in the mind long after the music has gone.

WAYNE KRAMER

The Hard Stuff (Epitaph 86447)

ONE OF popular music's original heavyweight malcontents, Wayne Kramer was a founder member of the 1960s revolutionary rockers the MC5. Having since done time in Was (Not Was), the Deviants and a federal correction institution in Lexington, Kentucky, the guitarist has emerged as a senior statesman figure in modern American alternative rock circles.

The unintentionally amusing sleeve notes by Henry Rollins give a fair indication of what to expect from *The Hard Stuff*. "This is the hard stuff... hard as the street you're going to have to go out and survive today". And a cast of supporting musicians from bands including Bad Religion, Circle Jerks, the Melvins and Suicidal Tendencies are no less resolute in their pursuit of hardness.

Kramer is not much of a singer, but his old-fashioned power-chord riffing and wail-wail soloing is efficient of its kind. In songs that range from the hell-for-leather "Bad Seed" to the spoken word narrative of "Incident On Stock Island", a steady cast of characters negotiate a world routinely riven by hard drugs, petty crime and violent confrontation. Although unfailingly energetic and leavened by the occasional tune — "Junkie Romance" has some nice chord changes — the album is heavy (not to say hard) going, overall.

THE BLUE AEROPLANES

Rough Music

(Beggars Banquet BBOCD 167)

PUT it down to bad luck, bad timing or bad dancing (from their non-musical accompanist Wojtek Dmochowski), but the Blue Aeroplanes have now spent a full decade languishing on the indie-rock margins when they could have done so much more. *Rough Music* is their seventh album and, as ever, its appeal hinges less on Gerard Langley's evocative poetry, recited in his southern English, beatnik drawl, than on the marvellous twinkling patchwork of guitars chiming away behind him.

The exact meaning of Langley's words is elusive more often than not. But when he does focus on a subject, as during the breathless, racing pulse of "Scared", he hits the mark with rare precision: "I love you and I'm scared/I'm scared I may be in too deep".

It is one of several affecting tracks on an album that deserves more attention than it will doubtless get.



"Of all the unlikely long-runners from the 1970s heyday of punk, Siouxsie & the Banshees have effected the most dramatic transformation while somehow also emerging with their dignity intact"

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Carry On Up The Charts | Beautiful South (Gut Discs) |
| 2 Always & Forever | Eternal (EMI) |
| 3 Steam | East 17 (London) |
| 4 Cross Road — The Best of... | Bon Jovi (Jambou) |
| 5 The Colour of My Love | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 6 Definitely Maybe | Casie (Creation) |
| 7 Crocodile Shoes | Jimmy Nail (East West) |
| 8 Dummy | Pollifhead (Gut Discs) |
| 9 Psyche | P J & Duncan (XS/Rhythm) |
| 10 Paradise | Blur (Food) |

Compiled by NRS

More like an art than a noise

An album of sacred music is just one more strand in
Anne Dudley's varied career. Louise Gray met her



Dudley: "It is difficult to write a good pop song"

As one of five children brought up in a south-east London home where pop music was considered subversive, Anne Dudley always wondered what the stars of her youth — Cilla Black or Cliff Richard, for instance — sounded like. She would see their black and white images bobbing about on the family television set, but "my parents would turn the sound down at the mere hint of pop music", she recalls. "That is probably why, when I was old enough to smuggle the transistor radio into the bathroom, I seized upon pop with such fanatical glee."

The glee will surprise no one who has followed Dudley's subsequent career as composer, arranger, producer and erstwhile leader of the Art of Noise. "I remember listening to all the classic Motown music and the Philadelphia soul stuff. Harold Melvin liked also Teddy Prater's 'Greatest'. But I especially remember hearing Smokey Robinson's 'Tears of a Clown' for the first time. I thought, there's a bassoon! And a piccolo! Later I

started listening to George Martin's work for the Beatles. He'd put a harpsichord cadenza in the middle of a three-minute pop song. I found them fascinating. It is this fascination with

texture, sounds and colours that has informed all of Dudley's work from the sample-delic pranks of the Art of Noise onwards. She speaks about tone-colours often, as if being a composer was the equivalent of being an interior designer, or a painter. Quite possibly, it is this interest in the relationships between the constituent parts of a musical piece that has shaped Dudley. And with the forthcoming release of *Ancient and Modern*, her debut classical album, Dudley is emerging in her true colours.

As its name suggests, the album is a collection of sacred music, scored for a 50-piece orchestra and an 18-strong chorus. With its "Veni Sancte Spiritus", "Communion" or "Three Chorales in Common

Time", A & M is full of strong images and subtly shaded moods. Dudley has researched her sources extensively. She used a sombre setting for the "Covenant Carol" after discovering the ballad came from a 15th-century pageant and was sung on the night that preceded the Massacre of the Innocents. Two other carols — "The Holly and the Ivy" and "Veni Emmanuel" — also appear.

This is, as far as marketing executives are concerned, crossover territory, and one of the most unpredictable sectors of the music industry. Who is going to listen to A & M? Not the people who know Bach backwards, thinks Dudley. More likely are those who like Art of Noise, or those who have picked up on her sound-

track work: her music from *Jeeves and Wooster* was nominated for a Bafta while her latest piece, for ITV's new series *Kavanagh QC*, is drawing appreciative murmurs. Nonetheless, Dudley realises that for many people A & M will constitute something of an anomaly: a classical album written by a musician at home on either side of the pop/art divide.

"I think it is important to draw a distinction," she says. "I am not a pop musician who is attempting something in a style with which I am not familiar. I've always come from a classical orientation. Even the pop music I do has its classical side: the way I score it, voice it, colour it. It all goes back," she pauses to collect enough breath to fuel a mock

sancimonious tone, "to my training."

The training was thorough enough. Winning numerous exhibitions and scholarships as a child pianist, Dudley left the Royal College of Music as the top B. Mus student of her year, did a Masters degree, and pondered her future.

The key proved to be a meeting with producer Trevor Horn in 1980 and the creation of a professional relationship now in its 16th year. Following Brian Eno's maxim — treat the recording studio as a compositional tool — Dudley began work as Horn's arranger and keyboardist. It was the chance to combine pop music and improvisation with the rigorous structure that classicists demand.

Other work followed and, during the Eighties Horn and Dudley's contributions to the likes of ABC, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, and Wham! established a standard of excellence

that other producers could only admire. And then there was the Art of Noise. Singles like "Beat Box", "Kiss" and "Moments in Love" (which Madonna and Sean Penn played at their wedding) achieved phenomenal success.

Her confidence to strike out as a solo classicist only came after a chance encounter with John Adams's *The Chairman Dances*. "It was a turning point. It was very modern, very daring, and had tremendous verve. I think Adams is one of the reasons that A & M came about."

"Classical music is about a lot of things. It can be about itself, about the structure. That is why it bears repeated listening. Pop music is basically about sex. It is very difficult to write a good three-minute pop song. You need an arresting intro, a not very long verse, a bridge that lifts and a chorus with a fantastic hookline and an interesting lyric. All the rest is dressing. It's that easy, then let me go home and write one."

■ Anne Dudley's *Ancient and Modern* is released on February 6, by Echo Records

Songs with sole

JAZZ

Annie Ross
Pizza on the Park,
SW1

Once she had warmed up the room with her opening number, a sultry "Bye Bye Blackbird", Annie Ross decided that a change of footwear was in order. Were her singing shoes in the dressing room, she inquired. Back came the reply from the genial master of ceremonies, Simon Becker: "There are some shoes here, but none that is singing."

After she had lowered herself into a glittering pair of silver high-heels, Ross went on to deliver a single, 90-minute performance rather than the customary two one-hour sets. Back in the limelight thanks to her role in Robert Altman's film *Short Cuts*, she has lost none of her charismatic appeal. But stretched to the show had its longueurs, most of coming forth during several forays into vocalese — otherwise known as the art of adding lyrics to jazz instrumentals.

Ross helped to pioneer that tricky form early in her solo career and, a few years later, with Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, the vocal trio which was a model for the likes of Manhattan Transfer. There is no denying the ingenuity of the word-play on Wardell Gray's "Twisted" or Art Farnsworth's "Farmer's Market", but it takes laser-sharp diction and pitch control to make the hybrid fly.

In her mid-sixties, Ross still looks wonderfully glamorous but the voice has, inevitably, suffered some wear and tear. None of that matters once she digs into show tunes and ballads.

A consummate actress, she makes a compelling dramatic monologue out of each piece, be it "Love Is Here To Stay" or the contrasting sentiments of "To Hell With Love", one of the cynical Dr John-Doe *Pommes* vamps taken from the soundtrack of *Short Cuts*.

Though she leaves the imprint of her personality on each song, the process is always subtle, never overbearing. She makes each word count, so that the listener can savour the intricacies of, say, Ira Gershwin's lyric on "Isn't It A Pity", with its cocktail-bour rhyming of "salmon" and "backgammon", "sour" and "Schoephauser".

Ross is also one of the few vocalists who can make the transition from worldly sophistication to low-down, bluesy laments without missing a beat. On "Going to Chicago" and "One Meat Ball" her voice took on the rasping, smoky quality of a tenor saxophone, floating above David Newton's piano accompaniment. She and her musicians, who also include Jack Parnell on the drums, will be in residence until January 28. Do not miss them.

CLIVE DAVIS

Bolton and Swindon in league of their own

By PETER BALL

FOR the first time since the Premier League clubs broke away in 1992, there will be a Football League team in the Coca-Cola Cup final. The semi-final draw yesterday paired Bolton Wanderers with Swindon Town, leaving Liverpool to face FA Cup Premier League opposition in Crystal Palace.

Even if the odds are miserly, after their 1-0 win over Arsenal on Wednesday, Liverpool are understandably favourites to win the competition, which they dominated in the early Eighties, when they won it in four successive years. At the start of the season, Roy Evans proclaimed a place in Europe as a legitimate ambition for his team after the upheavals of the last two seasons.

Liverpool are on course to achieve that through their Premiership placing, but in their great years they used to win the League Cup, in its various guises, almost as insurance in case anything went wrong in the league. They seem to be reverting to tradition, although this year the cup itself is important. If only

Souness era, they knocked Liverpool out of the Coca-Cola Cup in a replay at Selhurst Park.

This season's league form is inconclusive. Liverpool's 6-1 win over Palace at Selhurst Park on the opening day of offers little comfort to their opponents, but Palace have tightened up since then, and can point to a draw, goalless of course, at Anfield. After a barren spell of nine hours without a goal, Palace have scored nine in their last two matches, both cup-ties. They have, at least, the advantage of being at home in the second leg.

Like Bolton, they have never reached the final of this competition, and will not lack incentive, but, with the ties played over two legs, as Evans pointed out, it is hard to imagine Liverpool losing out this time so close to Wembley. It is more likely that Ian Rush, who has scored six goals in four games in the competition this season, will claim the two more goals he needs to equal Geoff Hurst's record of 49.

The other tie is more finely balanced, although Bolton will start as favourites. Swindon achieved one of the most popular giant-killing acts in football's history when, as a third division team, they beat Arsenal in the final in 1969.

That side had Don Rogers; this team has Jan Aage Fjørtoft, and Bolton will need to beware of him. But the Lancashire side is now running at full throttle towards the top of the Endleigh Insurance League, as well as maintaining its imperious recent progress, which has seen it defeat nine Premiership sides under Bruce Rioch, with Liverpool among its victims. Bolton reached the sixth round of the FA Cup last year.

SEMI-FINALS

Liverpool v Crystal Palace
Swindon v Bolton

First leg to be played week commencing February 12; second leg to be played week commencing February 19

as a symbol that the club is returning to health.

"At this stage of the competition there are no easy games," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "The two-legged matches make it slightly less dicey, but having said that, we have lost over two matches before, home and away to Bristol City and Bolton."

"We have still got a lot to do to win it, but I'm delighted we seem to be going along the right road. We don't look back, but we have got to remember the past. They were brilliant days, and we are now looking to build our own image to go alongside the old one."

They will be wary of Crystal Palace, however. To describe any club as Liverpool's bogey team would be stretching a point, but they have enjoyed some significant cup success against Liverpool in recent years.

In 1990 they exposed the first signs of vulnerability in Kenny Dalglish's champions when they came from behind to win a sensational FA Cup semi-final 4-3, and two years ago, in the more shaky

Swindon era, they knocked Liverpool out of the Coca-Cola Cup in a replay at Selhurst Park.

They certainly have more support. A Liverpool-Bolton final would have resonance beyond what is often a mundane occasion. Liverpool-England would have some romantic appeal; a Crystal Palace-Swindon final might be an entertaining game, but is probably the stuff of Coca-Cola executives' nightmares, featuring empty seats and television tuned away from ITV.



The Manchester United trio of Andy Cole, left, Gary Pallister and Paul Ince, right, fly the flag for the England football team's new sponsorship at its official launch at Old Trafford yesterday. The Football Association's historic deal with Green Flag is worth more

than £4 million. As well as backing the national team's games, Green Flag, best known in Britain for its National Breakdown subsidiary, will have a presence at the FA Cup Final and other important matches. Under the deal, which lasts until 1998, England

will receive performance bonuses for games in the European championship next year. Home games at Wembley will be known as Green Flag internationals and squad members will display the company logo on their training kit.

Kendall aims to keep County up

By PETER BALL

HOWARD KENDALL, one of the most successful football managers of his generation, yesterday returned to the English game with Notts County, the club at the bottom of the Endleigh Insurance League first division.

It appears an unlikely position for Kendall, who resigned from Everton 13 months ago to coach Xanthi, in Greece, and whose record marks him out as one of the game's outstanding managers. After a successful start with Blackburn Rovers he had his greatest success in the mid-Eighties with Everton, bringing them two championships, the FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup before going to Spain to manage Athletic Bilbao with some distinction.

On his return to England he worked at Manchester City before returning to Everton, rather less successfully. Five years ago he turned down an interview for the position of England manager, and more recently was linked with Wales. He was widely expected to take over at Ipswich Town last month, but Ipswich preferred one of their former players, George Burley.

With several other FA Cup Premier League posts filled in

the last two months, Kendall has returned lower down the ladder. "I've had a lot of good times in the game, and desperately want some more," he said. "I'm only 48, and still think I've got a lot to offer."

He is Notts County's third manager this season, following Mick Walker, who was dismissed in September, and Russell Slade, who succeeded Walker. Slade will stay as Kendall's assistant. The team has won only four games this season, but a victory over Tottenham Hotspur in the Coca-Cola Cup and a draw last Sunday with Manchester City in the FA Cup, when they were twice ahead, suggests there is some talent for him to work on. "Obviously my aim is to keep Notts County in the first division and I genuinely believe I can achieve that," Kendall said. "The cup results show there is a nucleus of a good side."

Steve McCall will remain as manager of Plymouth Argyle, the second division club, until the end of the season. McCall, 34, was put in temporary charge last week in place of Peter Shilton, who had been suspended and who left Home Park on Wednesday.

McIlroy decides to stay at Macclesfield

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

A WEEK of managerial upheaval in the Vauxhall Conference has seen Dover Athletic dismiss Chris Kinneer, their manager since November 1985, Yeovil Town show the door to Brian Hall, for the second time, and Macclesfield Town sign with the relief as Sammy McIlroy rebuffed Rochdale's overtures to join them. Aldershot Town, of the Division League, must also seek a replacement for Steve Wignall, who they believed would take them to the Conference, after his appointment as manager of Colchester United.

McIlroy's decision to stay at Moss Rose reflects Macclesfield's present position at the head of the table. "I felt I had to try to finish the job at Macclesfield," McIlroy said. Part of that task is to persuade the Eddisburgh Insurance League to accept the club, if they go on to win the championship, after delays to building work meant that the ground failed to meet the required standards by the deadline of December 31.

The league also rejected a possible groundshare proposal with Chester City because it now rules that a club should play within its conurbation.

Chester spent two years playing at Moss Rose after the club sold Sealand Road and while the Sealand Stadium was being built, so Moss Rose was obviously then up to standard. "Our chairman thinks there's a loophole and he's taking legal advice about the league's rulings," McIlroy said. Arthur Jones, the chairman, meanwhile, recognised McIlroy's loyalty with a new two-year contract. Dover's slump in form, with defeats in four days by Havant Town and Farnborough Town, has left them in the clutches of clubs above Stafford Rangers and Yeovil, but Kinneer's achievements at the club made his dismissal a shock. Not so Hall's, whose departure was inevitable the moment Yeovil crashed out of the FA Cup in the fourth qualifying round at Walton and Harsham last October.

Yeovil have since slipped to bottom in the Conference and the crowd average dropped to 1,891 from last season's 2,495. John Fry, a club director, is trying to raise a package that will inject much-needed finance. The size of the club's debts — still standing at £500,000 — made Hall's task almost impossible.

Chance for pace-setting Sharks to get teeth into trophy

By NICHOLAS HARLING

IMAGINE Wimbledon on the basketball court, a team scrapping, battling to the point of intimidation and going against everything that the purists stand for. And there you have Sheffield Sharks, the team that is striding away with the Budweiser League in their first season.

To those who say they have not beaten anyone of note, even after last weekend's two wins over title contenders, the Sharks will have the perfect reply if they capture the 7-Up Trophy tonight. Their opponents in the NEC at Birmingham are Thames Valley Tigers, the holders and league champions, who 11 days ago also regained the world invitation club championship.

There is no real form guide to go on. Even though the season is past halfway, the clubs still have to fulfil all three league fixtures. But one thing is certain — the Tigers are worried. After their home league defeat by Doncaster Panthers last Saturday, Steve Bucknall, the top-scoring Tiger, said: "Some people still don't have 100 per cent respect for Sheffield but I do."

Jim Brandon, the Sheffield coach, makes no bones about his team's unimpressive approach. A genial 35-year-old New Yorker, who spent two years playing for Sunderland before his career took him to Brixton, Calderdale, Manchester and Leicester, Brandon established his philosophy during five years in Saudi Arabia, where he was coach to the national military and national junior teams.

Chris Wright, chairman of the Chrysalis Group, and Mike Gudimski, the Australian chairman of Mushroom Records, decided that Brandon was the man for them when they formed the new club which was accepted straight into the Budweiser League.

"My goal was respectability," Brandon said, "and by that I was reasonably looking at sixth or seventh place in the league." Yet, with the help of what he describes as an "obsessive" staff, Brandon's new recruits have made a name for themselves in the first of the league.

He pumped for two Americans, Chris Finch and Todd Caution, backed up by some extremely able English players. "Some of the guys haven't played at this level before, but the chemistry in our team is unbelievable," Brandon said. "If I could have hand-picked them, I couldn't have come up with a better mix."

"Most teams are not used to seeing other people's noses in their faces. We get into their comfort zones and that knocks them out of the game. We're out-bottling people."

If it all sounds horribly like Wimbledon, Brandon is making no excuses.

Resurgent Griffiths takes cue to further challenge

By PHIL YATES

TERRY GRIFFITHS and Willie Thorne, two of snooker's household names from the days when the sport first became a television attraction, showed their pedigree in reaching the quarter-finals of the Liverpool/Victoria Charity Challenge in Birmingham yesterday.

Both have found success thin on the ground in recent years but Griffiths, in surprisingly beating Ken Doherty 5-1, and Thorne, in whitewashing Darren Morgan 5-0, committed few errors while scoring heavily throughout.

Griffiths, at 47 the oldest competitor in the 16-man field, unexpectedly beat Steve Davis in the last 16 of the European Open four weeks ago, and the solid form he displayed in Antwerp was again evident against Doherty.

With his confidence renewed by a change of cue during the summer, Griffiths is at last beginning to play with the authority which was his trademark during the late 1970s and early Eighties.

"It takes a lot of courage to swap cues at my age but I haven't played well for so long that I figured I didn't have a lot to lose," said Griffiths, who relied upon John Parris, Davis's cue doctor.

RESULTS

First round
W Thorne (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-0; T Griffiths (Wales) bt K Doherty (Ire) 5-1; S Davis (Eng) bt A Drago (Wales) 5-0; Wednesday's results: S Hendry (Scot) bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-2.

tor, to manufacture a replacement.

The cue Griffiths is now using to great effect is more rigid than his old one and the 1979 world champion is convinced that it has aided, if not directly caused, his recent rejuvenation.

Breaks of 84, 66, 61 and 51 carried Griffiths into a 3-0 lead and, although Doherty cleared the colours to steal the fourth frame, on the black, Griffiths won the next with a 30 clearance for a 4-1, completing victory with a run of 61 in frame six. Griffiths now meets Davis, who beat Tony Drago 5-1 in a generally poor-quality match.

Thorne, supposedly short of practice, gave the appearance of someone who has been living at the table when he took only 71 minutes to eliminate Morgan.

Whenever Thorne approaches his peak, sizeable breaks inevitably follow and yesterday was no exception. Thorne, 40, compiled breaks of 69, 40, 53, 52 and a 108 which could have been a 142 total clearance had he not missed a relatively straightforward black.

England A selectors moving to Weekes

PAUL WEEKES, the Middlesex all-rounder, seems sure to win a place in the England A cricket team for the first five-day international against India A, which starts tomorrow in Bangalore.

Weekes was left out of the drawn match against the Board President's XI in Madras but the team management believes it needs three front-line spin bowlers for the international game and Weekes's batting skills are likely to see him preferred to Min Patel as support for Ian Salisbury and Richard Stemp.

Mark Flint's worrying side injury has already ruled him out of the match and the Essex fast bowler could find himself out of the tour if his injury does not respond to treatment during the next few days.

With Mark Ramprakash now fit again after a throat infection, the last batting place would appear to rest between the Yorkshire opening batsman, Michael Vaughan, and the Glamorgan left-hander, David Hemp.

England A's probable line-up: N V Knight, J E R Sallis, M A Ramprakash, A P Webb, Coptwell, O L Harris, P N Weekes, D G Cook, P A Ward, I D K Salisbury, G Chappell, R D Stemp.

New Zealand's slim chances against the touring West Indies were reduced even further yesterday when Martin Crowe, 32, ruled himself out of the two-Test series.

He has been dogged in recent years by a persistent injury to his right knee, which flared up again during New Zealand's recent visit to South Africa.

Give five nations' spectacular a nudge into spring

THIS is the time of year, after the march to the bleak midwinter when the days grew shorter, the fuel bills longer, that we embark on the gradual incline downwards to the sighs and smells of springtime. The calendar suggests that these should be some way off yet. But next week the five nations' championship begins. This is the cheerful January ritual which is a portent that spring is closer than we think. The tournament has that happy knack of shortening the winter.

With international matches every fortnight presenting us with something to look forward to and a good deal to talk about in between, we will soon turn around and notice that the daffodils have arrived. But plans are afoot, initiated in Scotland, to consider shifting the international season to start in the middle of February and end in April. What to do over Easter, with its traditional activities and celebrations, is a sticking point.

There are a couple of reasons for the proposed change. The first is that the main section of this annual championship takes place during a period when Europeans suffer the worst weather. Six out of the ten games are played during January and February. There was a time when the tournament, arranged largely on the basis of one match each Saturday, stretched from January to April. These matches were in fixed order. To make sure that the competition went off with a bang and everybody paid attention, Wales, who understand, always played England first and, when in Cardiff, invariably in the mud.

France were last. This meant, biennially, Wales played the French, drenched of all dreads, with the sun on their backs. It was something to fear. They were so different, so sleek-looking, suntanned and suave. The British and Irish, emerging were made to look gauche and drab, leaden-footed and predictable. The French team, drawn largely from the warm south, were in ebullient mood. They ran as if with a glass of sparkling vintage in their veins, heavy beer in ours. April, in those days, could indeed be the cruellest month.

But shifting the season would provide more agreeable conditions for players and spectators alike. The second reason for the proposed revision of the international season is the congestion of fixtures: league and cup competitions, international and, in England's case, divisional commitments. Wales, for instance, have only partially succeeded this season in arranging that no league matches take place on the Saturdays before the international. England have also had their difficulties in attempting to accommodate national demands with club requirements. There is, it is argued, too much pressure. But, surely, with the club programme committing a player to only 20-odd games a season, is not too much to ask. Any less, and the club fixtures would be empty of meaning.

This is surely not pressure if, on the other hand, on the days the players are meant to be resting they are invited/threatened to appear at week-end squad sessions. It is these demands which produce the pressure, not necessarily the matches they play.

Whatever benefits may accrue from this preparation, it is actual matches that make them better players or, in any case, make them more in tune with the game's more realistic requirements. However, with national



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

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Butland makes debut as Bath rest Catt

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CONTRARY to the expectation of Jack Rowell, the England manager, Bath will rest Mike Catt when they play Northampton tomorrow in the Courage Clubs Championship. Of their four England players selected to meet Ireland next week, they have opted to play Jerry Guscott and to introduce Richard Butland for his first league game.

Butland, a student in aeronautical engineering at Bath University, will play opposite Paul Grayson, England's latest A-team selection at stand-off half. His colleagues will include, at No 8, the restless Steve Ojomoh, who earlier this week announced that he had registered to play for Northampton next season.

The unlucky Paul Hull, who was displaced by Catt from the England team, makes his comeback tomorrow after leaving the field with an Achilles' tendon

injury during the international match against Canada last month. He will play for Bristol at Sale.

Leicester, the other club to give four players to the England cause at Lansdowne Road, will play Dean Richards against Orrell and bring Andrew McAdam on to the wing after a long absence. His previous league appearance this season was the away game with Orrell, which Leicester won 6-0.

Orrell themselves will give a league debut to Martin Scott, who was named yesterday at hooker in the Scotland A team to play France at Highbury next Friday. Scott, once of Dunfermline and Edinburgh Academicals, came to prominence in 1992 when, as a late addition to the Scottish touring party in Australia, he won his only cap. Since then he has made an A team appearance against the French

and, last November, played for a Scottish Select XV against the South Africans.

Orrell hope that his aggressive game and accurate throwing will complement the return, after a nine-month absence, of Charles Cusani at lock. Injury and business commitments have kept Cusani out of the first team since last April's appearance, also against Leicester, when he was sent off; he is joined in the pack by Jeff Huxley at open-side flanker and John Russell at tight-head prop.

SCOTLAND A (to play France A at Highbury, Glasgow, on Jan 20): R J B Gilpin (Edinburgh Academicals); H R Gilman (Perth); P S Hastings (Watson); G S S Ewan (London Scottish); M E Appleton (Sale); S Lang (Glasgow); G Burns (Glasgow); M Maitland (D W Hutcheon); M W Scott (Crest); D J Harrington (Dunfermline); F D Wallace (Glasgow); J F Richardson (Edinburgh Academicals); D S Murray (Glasgow); I R Smith (Glasgow); S J Reid (Dunfermline). Reserves: M Dods (Sale); D W Hodge (Watson); K Truap (London Scottish); A E D Macdonald (Perth); P J J Morrison (Dunfermline); J A J Hay (Perth).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ACROPHOBIA

(c) Morbid dread of heights, hence *acrophobic*, from the Greek *akron* a peak or height + *phobos* panic, dread, phobia.

GEMELLION

(b) One of a pair of basins used for washing the hands before meals, the water being poured over the hands from one basin and caught by the other, hence, any decorative basin, specifically in liturgical use, *gemellio*, from *gemellus* a twin.

CULICIFUGE

(a) A substance applied to the body or to the clothing in order to keep gnats and mosquitoes away, hence *culicifugal*, from the Latin *culicis* a gnat + *fuge* making to flee, routing.

BUNCO

(d) A swindle perpetrated by means of card-sharping or some form of confidence trick, said to be an adaptation of the Spanish *bunco*, a card-game similar to monte. "The bunco-artists from the luscious fringe of the Democratic party."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nc3 wins, e.g. 1...fxe2; 2 Qf6+ Kc8; 3 Qxh6+ Ke7; 4 Qh8 mate; or 1...dxe2; 2 Qf6+ Kd6; 3 Rdi again mating.

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Strigley Hall Hotel, Golf and Country Club, Pwll Strigley, Cheshire. While space is available, we have some very special offers in this magnificent 19th century country house hotel, set on 362 acres on the edge of the Peak District, with its own 18-hole championship golf course and renowned Oaks Leisure Club featuring indoor pool, sauna, steam room, solarium, gym and beauty salon. Prices include breakfast and dinner and children under 16 years are Free (if sharing a room). The price also includes free use of the Golf Course and the Oaks Leisure Club. What's more, all bookings will be entered into a Free draw for a prize of two weeks for two in Disney World, Florida. 3 nights for the price of 2. £120. 5 nights for the price of 3. £175. Simply call 01625 575757 today to make your booking. Children under 16 years are Free. All prices are subject to change. All bookings must be made by 1st March. Booking and cancellation charges apply. Please refer to our website for full details. All prices are in £. VAT.

PARAMOUNT HOTEL GROUP

Former champion reacting positively to girlfriend's paralysis

Irreversible turn in life of O'Reilly

Mel Webb relates how a senior sportsman has come to terms with the sporting accident that changed him for good

The year of 1994 actually started for Will O'Reilly on December 22, 1993. Other folk were thinking of sleigh bells and holly yet, by the end of that fateful day, O'Reilly's life beyond the narrow sporting world of short-track speed skating that he had inhabited with distinction for a decade or more had been smashed into a thousand fragments. It was the day that was to change him, and his life, forever.

O'Reilly was in France, training with his girlfriend, Monique Veldzeboer, an Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal-winner, when Monique momentarily lost control and fell.

The expanse of ice that is so huge when adorned by such as Torvill and Dean and yet so small and claustrophobic when it becomes the arena for short-track, was suddenly nowhere near big enough for Monique, who crashed with sickening force head first into the barriers. Thirteen months on she is paralysed from the chest down, and will be in a wheelchair for the rest of her days.

O'Reilly, Olympic champion when short-track was a demonstration sport in 1988, had until the accident been a driven man, single-minded in his pursuit of excellence in one of the most adrenalin-inducing disciplines in world sport. Today he goes into the British short-track championships at Guildford expecting just as much, yet, given the agony of the last year, paradoxically more at peace with himself than he has ever been.

"I think most athletes by their nature are very selfish," O'Reilly said. "When things are not going quite right for them in their sport, they feel their life is falling apart, when actually there are a million and one things that are far more important — things you never realise until you're presented with them."

"Before Monique's accident I had been very, very single-minded, and to a degree I still am, but nowadays I am a much more rounded individual. Nowadays I can go to the pub and have a beer with my friends and feel comfortable with it. I am still as focused as I was before, while realising that skating's not the be-all and end-all of everything — that's been the key issue for me."

O'Reilly, 30, is approaching the veteran stage of a career that has seen him win one world championship, three European titles and umpteen honours at domestic level, but



O'Reilly, right, in training with Gooch, holder of the European and British titles that O'Reilly covets. Photograph: Hugh Roudledge

he is not letting the unhappiness of 1994, on as well as off the ice, to divert him from his goals.

Veldzeboer's accident happened only six weeks before the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, and O'Reilly did not go near an ice rink for a fortnight. "It did pass through my mind in that time that I might give up, but in the end I asked myself if the accident had happened in a motor accident, would I get in a car again?" he said. "The answer, probably, was 'yes', and that decided it."

Those two weeks off the ice had a telling effect on his performance in Norway. He failed to win the medal that had been widely predicted for him, that honour instead going to Nicky Gooch, his young England team-mate, who won a bronze in the 500 metres. O'Reilly also broke a blade on one of his skates and fell, and was denied a change of skate by the referee.

Given the circumstances, it was a calamitous blow to the

Birmingham-born son of an Irish mother and a West Indian father, but this was already a new Will O'Reilly. "With hindsight I realised that the reason I clashed blades with the other person was that I was not quite as sharp as I

might otherwise have been," he said. "Normally I should have been half a metre up on him, and then it wouldn't have happened. It was just circumstances. It wasn't the end of the world."

There are still targets, though, even for the more relaxed man he says he has become. He is aiming for podium positions in the European championships that start in Austria next week and then the world championships in

Norway in March. "I've skated faster than ever this year, broken a British record and got very close to a world record," he said. "I've done it before, and I think I can do it again."

Long term, he is resolved to be in Japan for the Winter Olympics in 1998. "People keep asking me why I'm wearing training kit with Japan on it," he said. "I tell them, 'I'm wearing it because I'll be there. I tell you, I'll be there.' But first comes the challenge of this weekend, when he will be trying to wrest the title back from Gooch, the British and European champion, and his junior by eight years. "Age doesn't matter," he said. "Look at Linford Christie. If he can do it at his age, so can I. Compared with him, I'm just a lad."

Besides which, he has an unspoken promise to keep as he glides out onto a gleaming white stage that will be forever denied a brave young Dutch woman who is at once his motivation and his inspiration.



O'Reilly picks himself up after crashing into a barrier, ready to skate another day

Concerned Conner has weather eye open

WITH the four-month America's Cup yachting trials scheduled to get under way in damp and windy conditions off San Diego yesterday, Dennis Conner, whose four victories make him the most experienced skipper by far, was uneasy at the level of preparation for his challenge with Stars & Stripes (Barry Pickhail writes).

Tom Whidden, Conner's right-hand man, said: "We don't feel as well organised as we would like to be and the weather hasn't helped, but we probably have the best crew I have ever sailed with in six Cup campaigns."

Conner's latest boat was due to meet up with Bill Koch's all-woman crew on America's but, as the Pacific surf pounded the harbour entrance, the accepted frailty of these 75ft racers in anything more than 20 knots of wind made racing on the opening day uncertain. The French have already ended up the worse for wear when testing the conditions outside their Mission Bay headquarters on Wednesday. Their skipper, Marc Pajot, and three other crew members came close to being capsized by the towering seas. Two of their number were thrown overboard and one dislocated his shoulder. Luckily, one Australia's inflatable tender was close by, and the crew was picked up safely.

The seven-strong challenger group competing for the Louis Vuitton Cup starts its trials tomorrow with a confident Chris Dickson, the skipper of TAG Heuer Challenge, aiming to steer clear of the politics that surround the event.

Austrian army digs in to rescue ski racing season

The Alps have too much snow while the Spanish are desperately short.

David Powell reports

Three hundred soldiers from the Austrian army were put to work yesterday to help dig the Alpine ski racing season out of trouble. Faced with yet another World Cup postponement, and with concern mounting over prospects for the world championships in Spain, no effort was spared to make sure that the first of four races planned for Kitzbühel over the next four days goes ahead.

While Gianfranco Kasper, the secretary of the International Ski Federation (FIS), was expressing his concern at the lack of snow in Sierra Nevada, where the world championships are due to begin on January 30, soldiers with shovels were out in force to tackle a different problem here — one of too much snow. They succeeded in clearing the lower section of the course and, provided Kitzbühel is spared another heavy snowfall before lunchtime today, a shortened downhill will be staged this afternoon while, simultaneously, work continues to clear the top part so that the Hahnenkamm race, the toughest downhill on the circuit, can go ahead tomorrow.

The race today has been made into a sprint downhill, which has happened only twice before. Instead of skiing the full 3,200 metres of the Hahnenkamm course, the two most treacherous sections, the Mausefalle and the Steilhang, will be missing and the competitors will begin at Alte Schneise, covering a distance of 1,950 metres. But they will do it twice, two hours apart, and positions will be calculated on aggregate times.

The mild December weather put the World Cup season behind schedule, only for

a blizzard to prevent Flachau from staging its men's super-giant slalom on Tuesday. The race has been added to the Kitzbühel programme and, given that the sprint today is the downhill scheduled originally for St Anton, Kitzbühel's two-day programme has been extended to four days. A slalom is scheduled for Sunday and the super-giant slalom for Monday.

Only three of the six speed races due to have been staged by now have been held, though the technical events — the giant slalom and slalom — are up to date. The unbalanced programme and the brilliant form of Alberto Tomba have combined to give the Italian a huge lead in the overall standings. Tomba, the sport's principal attraction,

has never won the overall title because he refuses to ski the speed events. Will this be the season when he succeeds despite declining to compete for points in two of the four disciplines? If nobody scores highly from the three speed races here, and Tomba wins his sixth slalom in succession in the only technical run, it will begin to look probable.

Tomba leads by 400 points from Jure Kosir, of Slovenia. His most likely challengers, Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Norway's defending champion, and Marc Girardelli, from Luxembourg, the downhill champion, are respectively 426 and 528 points behind. Sierra Nevada's need for snow has become desperate. Reports that the FIS was considering switching to another resort were discounted by Kasper yesterday, but he did suggest that the most likely solution if temperatures remain above freezing would be to postpone the championships until next year.

"One possibility would be to hold them next year as we have no world championships and no Olympic Games, the only year in ten we have nothing special on," Kasper said. "This is the most likely answer because of all that Spain has done to prepare for the world championships. Normally it takes five or six years to prepare. I do not believe any resort in the world could do it in five minutes."

"It is true that we are worried a little, but we are quite confident that we will have the world championships according to schedule."

Jerónimo Paz, secretary of the Sierra Nevada organising committee, said the present situation was "a nightmare".



Kasper: "a little worried"

Tickling tales of Araby

The Lion in the Sand. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

It must have been a labour of love for Gerald But to compile these recollections by Britons working and travelling in the Middle East during the 1920s and 1930s. There is no hard labour involved in listening to them. Hardly any do not have a laugh in their tail. There is the man who was almost carried to Christianity when a missionary demonstrated the art of climbing barefoot up a palm tree. There is the woman who refused to use the desert's natural loo — boys got into the bathroom and tore up all the maps. Finally, a charming vignette: a Brit squatting under the city walls of Kuwait, exchanging Koranic quotations with a little Arab lad.

Harrison's Bigwigs. Radio 3, 10.45pm.

Because it was recorded so close to the date of transmission, I have not been able to hear Carey Harrison's dramatised portrait of Isaac Newton in love. But I have long been a propagandist for Harrison's radio work, and on the basis of what I have been able to glean about tonight's feature, I would suggest you could do much worse than tune in. Like most of Harrison's radio writing, poetic licence is employed. I fully expect it to be playful licence, hence the umbrella title of "fantastical biography" under which tonight's portrait, and Harrison's two succeeding ones about Christopher Wren and Nell Gwynn, are sheltering.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright in the Morning 9.00 Simon Mayo, Inc. Mark Kennedy's weekend film and video review, and Dead or Alive 12.00 Lisa Ineson, Inc. at 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat 2.00pm 2.00pm Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, Inc. at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Patsy Tong's Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel: a session from London 10.30 Black 4.00 1.00am The JFM Rap Show with Westwood</p>	<p>All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Frutkinmagazine 5.00 News 6.00 Morningmagazine 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Oscar and Lucy 7.30 Law 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Review 8.00 News 8.05 Business 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 On the Move 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Faith 10.30 World Radio 11.00 News 11.15 11.45 Musicmagazine 12.00 News 12.10pm Faith 12.15 Law 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 the Debate, Oscar and Lucy 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 News 3.15 Review 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 House: Actual 5.00 News 5.05 the Debate, Oscar and Lucy 6.00 News 6.30 House: Actual 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Law 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 World Today 8.30 Europe Today 8.00 News 10.05 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 Musicmagazine 12.00 News 12.15pm Post 12.30 From the Week- lies 12.45 Learning World 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Worldbeat 1.45 Jazz 2.00 News 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.30 Sports 3.30 Vintage Chart Show 4.00pm</p>
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
<p>FM Stereo, 6.00am Martin Kelner with the Early Show 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.35 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Slater 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Melvyn Musical quiz 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Treasure Island, Part 1 9.00 Listen to the Band: the William Davis Construction Group based under Keith Wilkinson 10.00 Martin Kelner with the Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes: featuring Keith Smith's Hot Jazz 1.00 Jon Briggs with Night Ride</p>	<p>6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Landscape Concerto: Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Classical 7.00 Classic Vortex 8.00 Evening Concert: Dvořák (Overture, in Nature's Realm); Paganini (Capriccio); Bartók (Symphony No. 1) Dvořák 1.00am Robert Scott 1.00am Virgin 1215</p>
RADIO 3	CLASSIC FM
<p>6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor; 7.05 Puccini (Fantasia a 5); 7.07 News (Continued); 7.10 News (Continued); 7.15 News (Continued); 7.20 News (Continued); 7.25 News (Continued); 7.30 News (Continued); 7.35 News (Continued); 7.40 News (Continued); 7.45 News (Continued); 7.50 News (Continued); 7.55 News (Continued); 8.00 News (Continued); 8.05 News (Continued); 8.10 News (Continued); 8.15 News (Continued); 8.20 News (Continued); 8.25 News (Continued); 8.30 News (Continued); 8.35 News (Continued); 8.40 News (Continued); 8.45 News (Continued); 8.50 News (Continued); 8.55 News (Continued); 9.00 News (Continued); 9.05 News (Continued); 9.10 News (Continued); 9.15 News (Continued); 9.20 News (Continued); 9.25 News (Continued); 9.30 News (Continued); 9.35 News (Continued); 9.40 News (Continued); 9.45 News (Continued); 9.50 News (Continued); 9.55 News (Continued); 10.00 News (Continued); 10.05 News (Continued); 10.10 News (Continued); 10.15 News (Continued); 10.20 News (Continued); 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Scattered sightings of a bright, brief star

For anyone who thinks that arts documentaries are gimmicky and over-produced, last night's *Remembering Jacqueline du Pré* (Channel 4) was an instructive contrast, since it showed no signs of being produced at all. A whole hour, it was, composed of heart-stopping archive footage — du Pré's energetic concert performances, interspersed with lively lacking at the piano — but the overall effect of the programme curiously resembled a home movie session, in which the reels are shown randomly, without theme or principle.

Time for another?

"Ooh, have you still got that Trout Quintet?"

"I believe I do have it here somewhere, yes, although it's only black and white. Fancy an Ovaltine? It's no bother."

"I shouldn't, really. Not after the Nutty Prats and the cheese foot-halls."

"All right, then. Ahem. Quiet, please."

The usual talking heads were notable for their absence. The usual apparatus of dates and facts was, perhaps, knocked over in the rush to celebrate the fifth anniversary of du Pré's birth. Instead, an unnamed narrator (presumably Christopher Nupen, the film's producer) said some very nice things about du Pré's great talent, as though she was everybody's best friend — which was touching, though not very realistic. "She touched our hearts in ways we will not forget," he said, "it was a gift with endless possibilities, and there is no explaining it! No explaining it! Oh well, thread up another film, then. Just tell us at the end which pieces she was playing, we'll watch those."


Cameron loved Jacqueline du Pré — the wide, sudden smile, thick autumn hair, the thrilling crescendo hums in her seat: what

"All right, then. Ahem. Quiet, please."

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Cameos loved Jacqueline du Pré—the wide, sudden smile, thick Auburn hair, the thrilling crick-neck jumps in her seat: what

a star this woman was. In a sleeveless cotton frock and 1960s chain belt, skipping across a busy London street with her cello case (carried lightly by the hand), she evoked times of audacious, free-spirited Georgy Girls that surely never existed. Was her playing "excessively emotional", as somebody put it? For all her artistry, cameras ignored her fingers, concentrating on that pale, expressive face, the *wonderment* on it. But "excessive emotion" suggests tantrums or hysteria, whereas what came through her playing was purely and straightforwardly love.



Lynne Truss

and it ended without properly finishing. Two former lags — one Scottish (Freddie Boardley), one cockney (Karl Howman) — are thrown into cahoots, when each is threatened by a comic villain heavier (but not funnier) than himself. Together they overcome a few nasty tricks, and are reluctantly pledged to help each other in the future. Which must mean a series, mustn't it?

(By the bye, I do wonder sometimes why pilots are broadcast, when public reaction and critical panning evidently play no part in the decision to commission. It's not weighty enough to sink a pilot; it ended up as a mere Carson brushed aside all pleas and quibbles, and went ahead with *Brighton Belles*.)

Unfortunately, *Bad Boys* sacrificed its claims to originality by *foretelling the stock wide-boy character* — nicely turning the tables on centuries of stock Scots, perhaps, but at too high a price. Looking back on it, its Karl Howman (from *Brushstrokes and Mulberry*) who stole the show, whereby the Scottish ruler, of unwieldy mobile villains submitting to dainty golf club etiquette, became curiously incidental. The funniest scene concerned Howman, on his own; talking terms with an entire gang of well-armed Glaswegian poons on a

walkway under a bridge. As they approached in silhouette, you saw Howman unconcernedly eating a packet of crisps. In the ensuing conversation, he staunchly held his own, despite the presence of most clerics, but when the hooded departed, he simply bent double, keening with fear. It was brilliantly done.

Of course, had Howman been hacked to bits, the consolations would have been, *a*) he'd finished his crisps, *b*) there was no official mention of a *series*, and *c*) the whole thing may have been recorded by police cameras. In last night's *Metropolis* (BBC 2), an amiable prison governor called Dr David Wilson asked whether cameras in city centres intruded on people's human rights, despite their obvious usefulness in nailing criminals. Prison systems have toyed with the idea of continuous surveillance

(Bertham's famous Panopticon idea), but have decided against it on humanitarian grounds. (Dr Wilson made his programme in advance of recent events.)

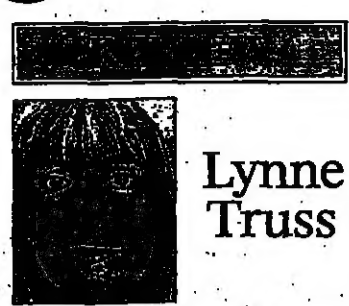
This *Metropolis* was a cool, rational affair. The words "Big Brother" were mentioned, but otherwise Dr Wilson mostly avoided alarmist clichés. In Newcastle, police taps have been used in 400 prosecution cases; on seeing them, 350 people promptly confessed. Dr Wilson waived police footage of car thefts and kickings, visibly shocked by it, but neglected to ask the obvious questions. How long are taps kept? Don't they get in the way, as they do at home? Are the seventeen ones kept, too, or is *NYPD Blue* recorded on the tap?

"Right, sarge. How about Camera 13 on 10th or 12th?"

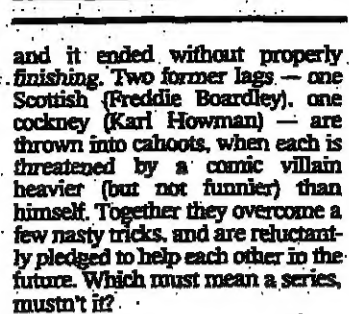
"How does it go?"

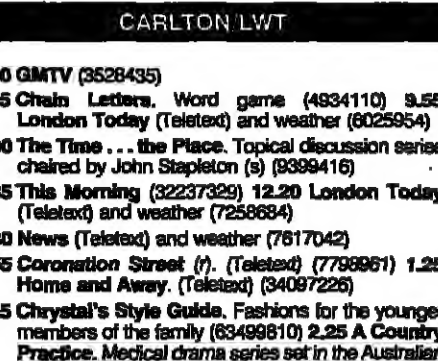
"It says here, Six hours of lamp post, shop-front and moonlight."

"Lovely, Fancy an Ovaltine?"



**Lynne
Truss**

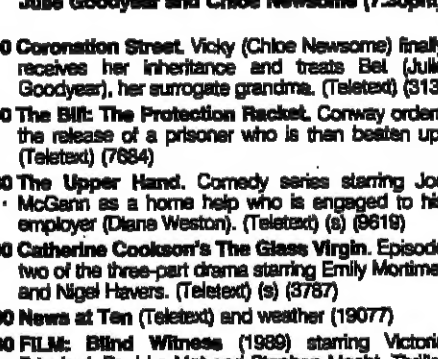




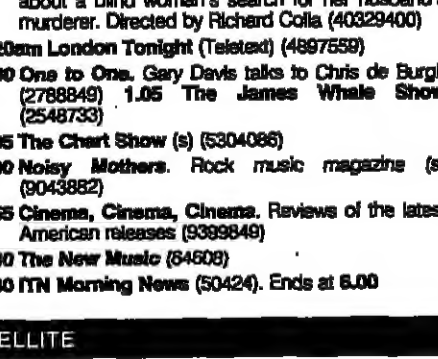
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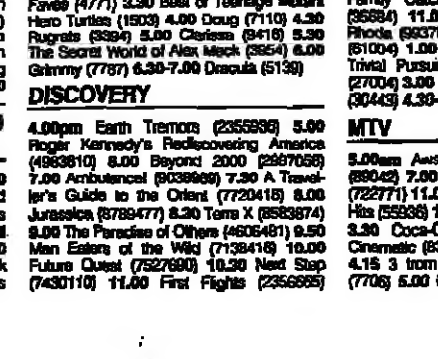
Principal, Paul Le Mat and Stephen Macht. Thriller about a blind woman's search for her husband.

[illegible]

Garfield and Friends (3988329) 7.25 Ask the
Cat (5191416) 7.95 Pinwheel (5480587) 8.25



(2836) 2.30 Smoggies (6058) 3.00 Nick	(35748) 9.00
Family Cold	



6.00 Business Breakfast (56634)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (16563935)
5.05 Kilroy (4) (804232)
10.00 News (Ceebe) regional news and weather (1707572) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (4) (8058222)
12.00 News (Ceebe) regional news and weather (7252400) 12.05 Pebble Mill (4) (8255555) 12.55 Regional News and weather (70713327)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceebe) and weather (59394)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceebe) (4) (91480058) 1.50 Timespeakers. Quiz show (4) (8148474)
2.15 Holiday. Reports from a Colorado ski resort that provides facilities for disabled skiers. St. Luke's Sanatorium and a painting course in France (4) (Ceebe) (4) (301618) 2.45 The Flying Doctors. Australian medical drama series (4) (Ceebe) (4) (5819481)
3.30 Cartoon (5890416) 3.45 Eliza (4) (5515771) 4.00 Jeopardy. Christopher Clark with Paul Ivison and Stevenson's Treasure Island (8513322) 4.10 Hugs (4) (2253253) 4.25 The Borrowers (4) (Ceebe) (4) (4481222)
4.50 Newsweek Extra. Julie Eichenheim reports on South Africa's controversial elephant culling policy (7654400) 5.05 Games Hill. Comprehensive school drama series (Ceebe) (4) (8370449)
5.35 Neighbours (4) (Ceebe) (4) (855500)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceebe) and weather (481)
6.30 Regional news magazine (61)
7.00 Whopnot. Game show presented by Paul Daniels. (4) (3988)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a report from Howard Staddon in northern China on the attempt to match the DNA from 8,000-year-old mummies with DNA fingerprints of people today. (Ceebe) (4) (145)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses. More comedy from the wheeler-dealer Trotter brothers. Starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (4) (Ceebe) (4) (5418)
8.30 Health and Efficiency. Comedy series set in a hospital. (Ceebe) (4) (1029)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceebe) regional news and weather (5771)
9.30 999. Michael Burk introduces another selection of reconstructions from the casebooks of Britain's emergency services. (Ceebe) (4) (4803222)
10.35 Peter Cook: The Best of Not Only But Also. A tribute to the comic genius who died this week (128917). Wales: At Our Lives 10.55 Peter Cook 11.25 Film: Rocky II 11.55-12.05: Flaming Star

7.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (4) (4738955) 7.05 Bump (4) (4737222) 7.10 Galaxy Goof-Ups (4) (8067481) 7.35 Blue Peter (4) (Ceebe) (4) (1217481)
8.00 Breakfast News (Ceebe) and weather (1818955)
8.15 The "90000" (7803145) 8.35 Consuming Passions. (7525597) 8.40 The Time of Your Life. Explores the of more mature (442991)
9.00 The Last Great Cattle Drive (4) (42077) 10.30 Playdays (4) (4) (818495)
10.35 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. Spanish Civil War drama based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway. Directed by Sam Wood (7271884)
12.30 Working Lunch (30058) 1.00 Postman Pat (4) (1310841) 1.15 The Infinite Voyage: The Great Dinosaur Hunt (8137988)
2.10 Sport on Friday. Includes Racing from Ascot: live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05 and 3.35 races (4). Includes News and weather at 2.55 (895022)
3.50 News (Ceebe) and weather (4741899)
4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (874)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! Culinary magazine (918)
5.00 Oprah. A discussion on family phobias (7409222)
5.45 Decisions. Dr. David Cook talks to Victoria Scott about her husband's cancer, the Minister for Disabled People (217077)
6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (4) (Ceebe) (4) (625344) 6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased): Vintage private detective series (861619)
7.15 The O-Zone. Zoo Ball talks to Elvis Costello at his home in Dublin (4) (359313)
7.30 Sound of the Stables (4) (4) (787)

6.00 Countrywomen: The Keeper's Dawn (Ceebe) (4) (3058)
6.30 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens. (Ceebe) (9065)
6.00 Bottoms. Comedy series. (Ceebe) (4) (5313)
9.30 The High Life. Comedy series about the cabin crew of an aircraft. (Ceebe) (4) (47394)
10.00 The Day Today. Spoof current affairs (4) (Ceebe) (19022)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceebe) (837394)
11.15 Fantasy Football League (4) (541874) Wales: Welsh Lobby 11.45 Fantasy Football League 12.55m Duckman 12.45-1.35: The Fugitive 11.45 Duckman. Adult animation (4) (844597)
12.05m Weather. (825098)
12.15 The Fugitive (4) starring David Jansen. (Ceebe) (5219801). Ends at 1.10

6.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (4) (4738955) 7.05 Bump (4) (4737222) 7.10 Galaxy Goof-Ups (4) (8067481) 7.35 Blue Peter (4) (Ceebe) (4) (1217481)
8.00 Breakfast News (Ceebe) and weather (1818955)
8.15 The "90000" (7803145) 8.35 Consuming Passions. (7525597) 8.40 The Time of Your Life. Explores the of more mature (442991)
9.00 The Last Great Cattle Drive (4) (42077) 10.30 Playdays (4) (4) (818495)
10.35 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. Spanish Civil War drama based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway. Directed by Sam Wood (7271884)
12.30 Working Lunch (30058) 1.00 Postman Pat (4) (1310841) 1.15 The Infinite Voyage: The Great Dinosaur Hunt (8137988)
2.10 Sport on Friday. Includes Racing from Ascot: live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05 and 3.35 races (4). Includes News and weather at 2.55 (895022)
3.50 News (Ceebe) and weather (4741899)
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4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! Culinary magazine (918)
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FRIDAY JANUARY 13 1995

Defeat leaves Atherton's side with no part to play in World Series Cup finals

Second-string Australians foil England

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA's young bloods gave the depleted England side what amounted to a start here yesterday and still pipped them to the finals of the World Series Cup. There they will meet their elder brethren, the Australian first XI, in the best of three matches, the first of them in Sydney on Sunday.

Although Australia A made 264 for five from their 50 overs, England needed only 237 to become finalists themselves, this having to do with the run-rate over the competition as a whole. Australia's points with England and their splendid total was sufficient to give them a microscopic advantage on the count-back. They deserved it, too.

In certain respects, England were outplayed. Australia averaged more than five runs an over without Ponting, the batsman many believe to be the best of their younger school, getting to the wicket until their innings was virtually over. None of Australia's first six batsmen was genuinely got out. I am not sure that any of them was properly beaten, and yet the oldest is only 24. On a pitch of plate-glass perfection they played with the dash and confidence and gusto of a sunshine race — and with good technique to boot.

In the field there must have been a difference between the sides of a run an over, and not that many fewer between the wickets. Hughes, with his comparatively leaden step, would have looked more at home in the England side. That England in the end got as near as they did owed as much to their tail as to the earlier batsmen. Some lusty hitting by Rhodes, DeFreitas, Lewis and Udell left them needing eight off the last over to reach the finals, and three off the last ball, bowled by Reiffel to Fraser. In a sense it could be seen as a triumph for the handicapper.

The sides were dressed up like fruit machines. The clothes they are made to wear for these matches get more and more vulgar. England

gave Lewis his first game of cricket since last September, preferring him to Malcolm and Benjamin. Long before the lights were switched on, under a cloudless sky, there were nearly 40,000 people packed into the ground, and they loved what they saw. Knowing that they needed to win by a wide margin if they were to reach the finals, the Australians went for their strokes right from the start.

It was a fiercely testing afternoon for Atherton. He had Lewis and DeFreitas to

Australia was the doourest of batsmen; Greg is more than making up for it. His 113 came off 133 balls. As early as the fifth over of the day, he sent for a cap and got rid of his helmet, as though he had already seen the signs.

In nine previous innings against Atherton's side, Bevan had a best score of only 46. Yesterday he showed what he can do. About average height and left-handed, he hits the ball in slightly unexpected directions, partly because he has the eye to do so. When he drove a return catch to Udell, he had made 105 in 102 balls. There were 108 singles in Australia's innings, so quick and eager were they to see them.

Atherton and Gooch gave England a flying start. Hughes's first three overs went for 23 runs and in seven overs the score reached 40, one glorious cover drive from Gooch raising hopes that the clouds might be lifting from his head. But by the end of the fourth over, England were 55 for two, both openers having been caught at the wicket trying to press on. In fact, the momentum was quite lost. Hick made a rather deliberate 35. Thorpe a somewhat nonchalant 24. The next to show real urgency was Gatting, who prodded Crawley into action before the dreaded Darrell Hair sent him on his way.

That was 143 for five with 50 overs left and England needing another 94 runs, not to win the match but to reach the finals. The rest was a mixture of despair, delight and pandemonium, of wild hitting, frantic running, ringing strokes and falling wickets. For obvious commercial reasons the Australian Cricket Board must have wanted England to win. But Hair was a problem they had not taken into account — and England now have nine days to put their feet up, play some golf, think of home and ponder the two remaining Test matches. They are next in action, against Victoria, in Bendigo a week tomorrow.

	P	W	L	Pts	NRR
Australia A	6	5	1	10	0.43
England	6	3	3	6	0.09
Zimbabwe	6	3	3	6	0.06
Zimbabwe	6	1	5	2	-0.55

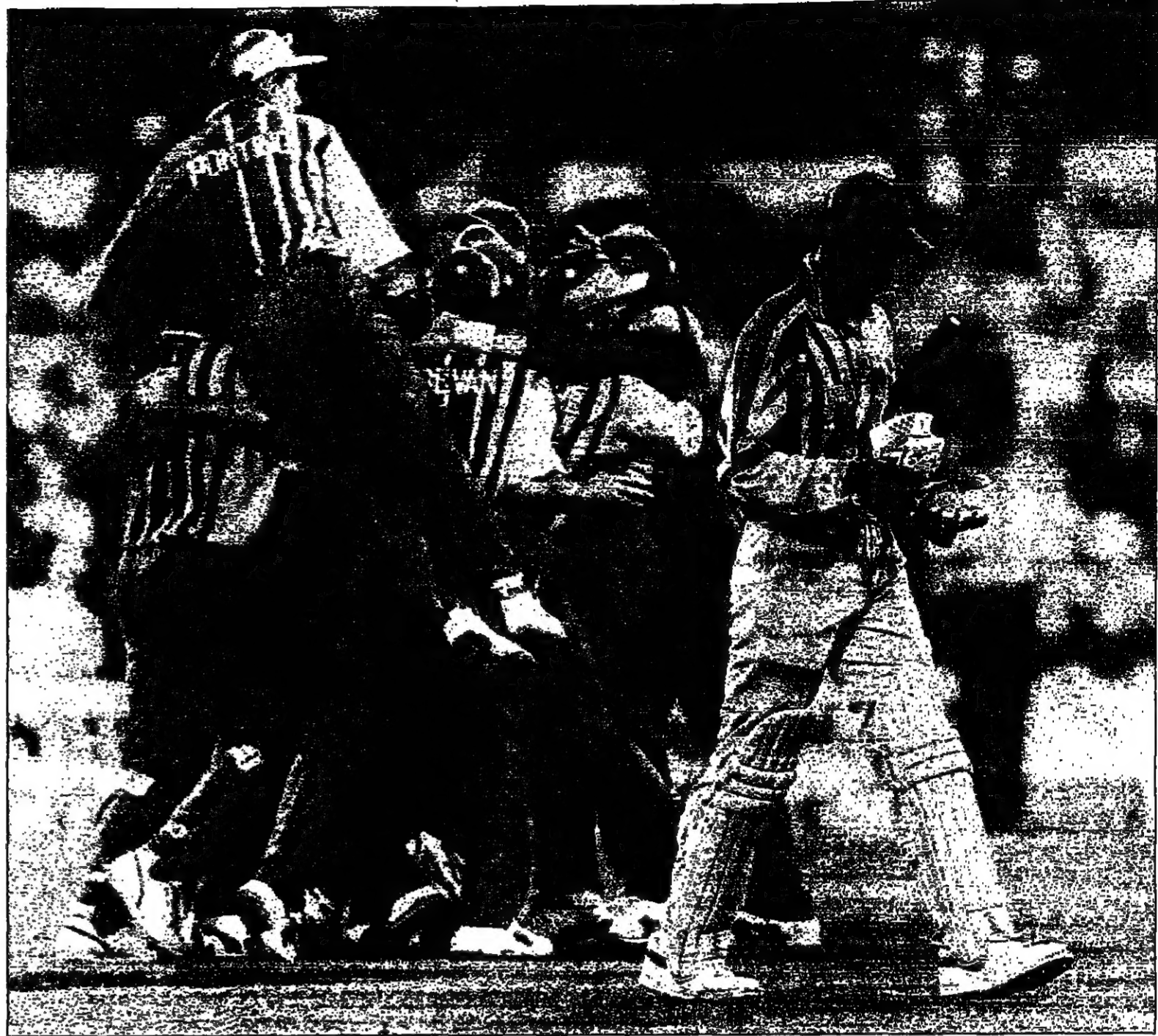
NRR = net run-rate

RESULTS: Dec 2: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 2 wickets (Forth). Dec 4: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 5 wickets (Forth). Dec 6: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 28 runs (Sydney). Dec 8: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 14 runs (Hobart). Dec 10: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 7 wickets (Adelaide). Dec 11: Australia A beat Zimbabwe by 10 runs (Melbourne). Dec 12: England A beat Australia A by 31 runs (Melbourne). Dec 13: Zimbabwe beat England by 13 runs (Sydney). Jan 7: England beat Zimbabwe by 26 runs (Brisbane). Jan 8: Australia beat Australia A by 34 runs (Brisbane). Jan 10: England beat Australia by 37 runs (Melbourne). Jan 12: Australia beat England by 29 runs.

FINALS: Jan 15: first final (Sydney). Jan 17: second final (Melbourne). Jan 18: third final (Melbourne, if required).

turn two into ones and several others who were more likely to turn ones into twos or threes. All things considered, I thought the captain made just about all he could have done of a difficult job. For all but the last two balls of Australia's innings he had to contend with a right-hander and a left-hander batting together, young shavers out to run England off their feet.

Australia lost two wickets in the first hour, both from hard hits that chanced to go straight to a fielder. In the eighth over, Hayden drilled DeFreitas to Gooch at mid-on; in the fifteenth, Martyn found Thorpe at extra cover. Blewett and Bevan then added 161 in 28 overs. Blewett fairly flew between the wickets. His father, Bob, who captained South



The Australia A team players dive into a huddle of self-congratulation as a disconsolate Lewis walks off at the end of the match

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

Australia A won toss

AUSTRALIA A

M L Hayden c Gooch b DeFreitas 4

(30min, 21 balls)

G S Blewett c Thorpe b Lewis 113

(174min, 133 balls, 6 fours)

*D R Martyn c Thorpe b Lewis 13

(32min, 24 balls, 1 four)

M G Bevan c and b Udell 105

(145min, 102 balls, 1 five, 6 fours)

J L Langer c Gooch b Udell 16

(21min, 12 balls, 2 fours)

R T Ponting not out 6

(13min, 7 balls)

*P A Emery not out 0

(1min, 1 ball)

Extras (lb 7) 7

Total (50 overs, 210min) 264

P E McInnes, M G Hughes, P R Reiffel

and S P George did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Blewett 7),

2-46 (Blewett 28), 3-207 (Bevan 71), 4-

245 (Bevan 93), 5-262 (Ponting 5).

BOWLING: Fraser 10-1-38-0 (5-1-14-0)

0-4-0-22-0; DeFreitas 10-2-45-1 (7-2-

25-1, 2-0-15-0, 1-0-3-0); Lewis 6-0-48-

2 (3-0-21-1, 3-0-27-1); Udell 10-0-56-2

6-0-23-0, 3-0-18-0, 2-0-15-2; Hick 8-

0-40-0 (5-0-22-0, 3-0-18-0); Gooch 8-

0-34-0 (3-0-16-0, 3-0-18-0).

ENGLAND

G A Gooch c Emery b Hughes 17

(57min, 36 balls, 2 fours)

*M A Atherton c Emery b Reiffel 20

(22min, 21 balls, 3 fours)

G A Hick b McIntyre 25

(71min, 47 balls, 4 fours)

G P Thorpe c Reiffel b McIntyre 24

(54min, 44 balls)

J P Crawley c Emery b George 37

(67min, 47 balls, 4 fours)

M W Gatting lbw b Hughes 15

(29min, 25 balls)

*S J Rhodes c George b McIntyre 23

(40min, 29 balls, 2 fours)

C C Lewis not out 22

(49min, 25 balls, 1 four)

P A J DeFreitas b Blewett 12

(23min, 14 balls, 2 fours)

S O Udell lbw b Reiffel 1

(14min, 11 balls, 1 four)

A R C Fraser not out 1

(4min, 2 balls)

Extras (lb 13, w 7) 20

Total (50 overs, 221min) 235

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Gooch 15),

2-25 (Hick 13), 3-100 (Thorpe 20), 4-

105 (Crawley 1), 5-143 (Crawley 20), 6-

178 (Rhodes 19), 7-187 (Lewis 0), 8-

215 (Lewis 13), 9-222 (Lewis 21).

BOWLING: Hughes 8-0-43-2 (no 1, w

3, 3-0-23-0, 2-0-10-1, 3-0-10-1); Reiffel

10-2-42-2 (w 2, 6-0-12-1, 4-0-30-1);

Blewett 8-0-44-1 (2-0-17-0, 4-0-17-0,

2-0-10-1); George 10-1-33-1 (w 2, 6-1-

17-0, 3-0-14-1, 1-0-2-0); McIntyre 10-

0-45-0 (9-0-35-2, 2-0-10-1); Martyn 4-

0-15-0 (one spell).

Match award: G S Blewett.

Umpires: D B Hair and T A Prie.

Replay umpire: W A Cameron.

Report compiled by Bill Fordell.

Captain puts blame on shortcomings in field

MICHAEL ATHERTON, the England captain, yesterday blamed poor fielding and injuries for his side's failure to reach the World Series Cup finals.

"We didn't perform as well in the field and that tends to count in one-day games," he said. "We gave away too many runs and paid too high a price for victory the other night."

He was referring to the loss of Darren Gough and Neil Fairbrother, who were injured in the defeat of Australia in

Melbourne on Tuesday. "That made a big difference to our side — and that's not trying to make excuses."

Atherton's remaining target is to level the Ashes series, in which England are 2-0 down. "We've a week to go before our next game. We're going to go to Melbourne and take two or three days' rest before practising for the four-day game against Victoria starting next Friday. Then we must try to get something out of the last two Tests."

Work permit delay puts Yeboah's arrival on ice



Yeboah: German success

While everyone is either bewitched or bothered by Andy Cole's £7 million move to Old Trafford, a hitch concerning another big transfer could hold at least equal significance for English football.

Anthony Yeboah, the Ghanaian striker who was due to be at Elland Road, after a £3.4 million agreement between Leeds United and Eintracht Frankfurt, will not now be coming until the Department of Employment has issued a work permit. Yeboah cannot be doubted as a striker. He has netted 30 goals in his past 36 Bundesliga appearances and has no peer among foreign players in Germany. He could not meet greater xenophobia here than he conquered in Frankfurt.

However, the department has advised Leeds not to bring him here

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, is unconcerned that the Leeds debut of another imported talent has been held up

while the permit is under consideration. The department, which is advised on imported players by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), has already allowed in 150 players from almost 40 nations.

It would be foolish to think that some do not lift the game here. Jürgen Klinsmann is flowering where Osvaldo Ardiles did before him; Eric Cantona is essential to Manchester United. However, there must be concern that both Leeds and Yeboah have sought release clauses in their deal in case either of them becomes dissatisfied within the year.

With such doubts, with evidence aplenty that players brought in on the whim of one manager are discarded by the next, who can blame the department or the PFA for being cautious? Just before Christmas, two chairmen, Alan Sugar, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Peter Johnson, of Everton, were comforting each other because, having dismissed their team managers, the replacements had no time for £2.6 million Ili Durnitescu or £3 million Daniel Amokachi.

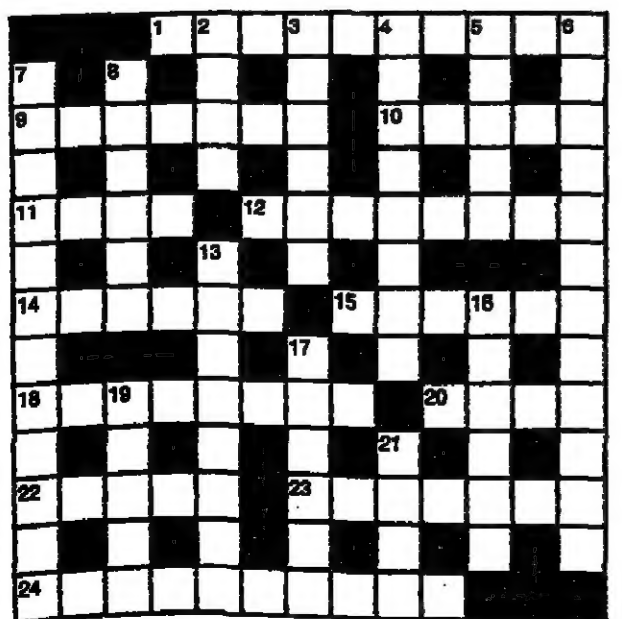
Durnitescu has been dispatched by Spurs on loan to Seville; Amokachi may yet shine here as bright as the

diamond in his left ear. Meanwhile, a third revolving door, the dismissal of Aston Villa's Ron Atkinson, has meant that Nii Lamptey, a £1.3 million gamble, is unwarranted by Aston Villa.

The flights of fantasy of men on the managerial misery-ground threaten the English market to the tune of millions of pounds, millions which, unlike the Cole money, is irretrievable once it leaves England's swirl.

Besides, does nobody have a place in their team for the home-grown talent of Bradley Allen? Seemingly surplus to requirements at Queens Park Rangers, he is a goalscorer whose pedigree was much coveted in his youth and is barely on the cusp of manhood.

Coca-Cola Cup draw, page 36



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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 368

ACROSS

- In prison (6,4)
- Refrain (from): keep apart (4,3)
- Musical drama (5)
- Second-hand (4)
- Violently collapsed inwards (5)
- Removing, losing moisture (6)
- Command, require (6)
- Sequential cycle: crop system (5)
- Nautical pole (4)
- Come to maturity (5)
- Mishmash (7)
- Meandering: a greenish rock (10)

DOWN

- God of Love (4)
- Notoriety (6)
- Showing infatuation; slobbering (8)
- In front (5)
- Space, but not to sit (8,4)
- Hold rifle at slope, butt in hand (8,4)
- Ready for bed (6)
- Example (5)
- Parentless child (6)
- Under-surface of arch, beam, etc (6)
- Become narrower (5)
- Food of grain husks (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 367

ACROSS: 1 Debilitated 8 Roman 9 Concuss 10 Skim 11 Filament 13 Trophy 14 Rumpus 17 Agnostic 19 Tiff 22 Caveman 23 Eclair 24 Long-delayed
DOWN: 1 Darts 2 Bambino 3 Lank 4 Tactic 5 Tantalus 6 Daube 7 As it is 12 Chessmen 13 Trance 15 Paisley 16 Pinned 18 Novel 20 Feted 21 Heel

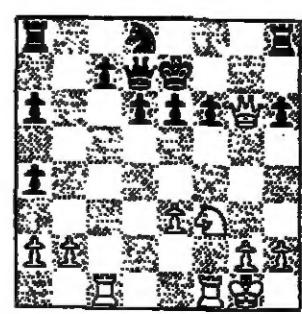
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Staunton - Jaenisch, London 1851.

In this position, White used one of his pieces as a suicide bomber to prise open the black position. What did he play?

Solution, page 36
Raymond Keene, page 6



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACROPHOBIA
a. Horror of spiders
b. The approach to the Acropolis
c. Dread of heights
GEMELLION
a. A yearling colt
b. A basin
c. French Revolutionary month

CULICIFUGE
a. A midge-repellent
b. Dislike of cucumbers
c. Cowardly

BUNCO

a. A card swindle
b. Bunkum and balderdash
c. A doughnut with syrup

Answers on page 36

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